Trade and Industry

20 February 1974 20p

News of Industry Trade

Prices & Consumer Protection

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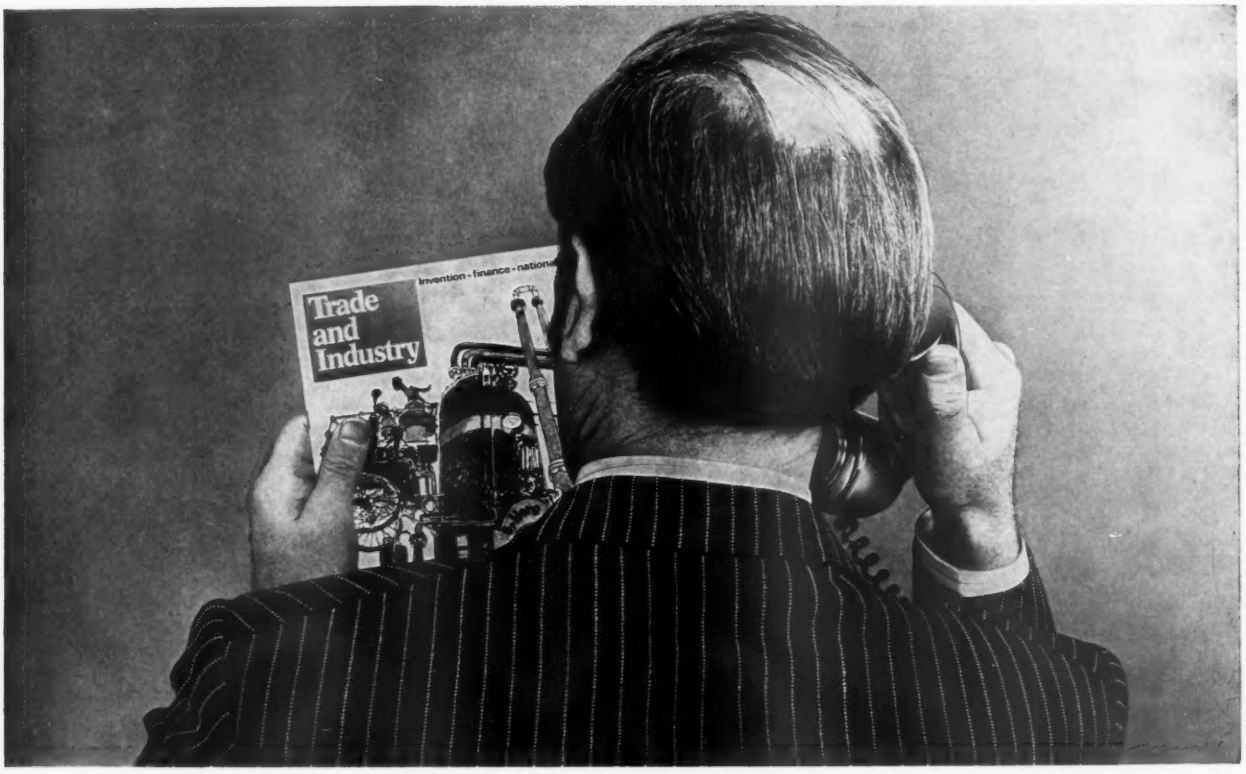

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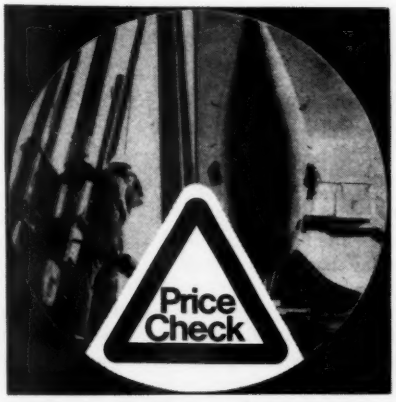
20 February 1976

News from the Departments of Industry·Trade·Prices & Consumer Protection



Our cover represents the three areas of news reported each week. Industry: the AMcore quick-change drilling sampling system (left), developed by the Alluvial Mining and Shaft Sinking Co. Ltd., Essex, ties in with a picture spread on the offshore supplies industry. Trade: the belly, not of a sea monster, but of Concorde (right); the White Paper on civil aviation policy is summarised this week. Prices and Consumer Protection: price check symbol of the new Selective Price Restraint Scheme.

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Home News

Green Paper on consumer safety

How to reduce home accidents by strengthening the present law is the central theme of a consultative document published this week.

The Green Paper, announced by Alan Williams, Minister of State for Prices and Consumer Protection, on 4 February, falls into five parts.

Part I describes the existing system and how it functions, with particular reference to the existing legislative safeguards.

Part II draws attention to present shortcomings in the system whether caused through lack of necessary information or of powers.

Part III suggest how the existing position might be improved.

Among the proposals put forward for consideration are the extension of the present regulation-making powers under the Consumer Protection Act 1961 to provide greater flexibility in dealing with hazards; the introduction of a new power to enable the sale of any dangerous product not in breach of regulations to be banned when necessary; the possibility of introducing a general safety law requiring those who supply goods, including manufacturers and importers, to ensure that they are safe; and the introduction of powers to seize or require the recall of dangerous goods where a particularly serious hazard is known to exist.

Part IV of the document recognises a continuing need to remind people of the dangers inherent in many goods in everyday use, and to warn them of the need to take proper care and exercise common-sense in the home, and

Part V summarises the proposals.

If necessary, further legislation will be introduced as soon as practicable to implement the conclusions reached after the consultations.

All those interested, including manufacturers, retailers and consumer bodies, are invited to submit their views on the consultative document to the Department of Prices and Consumer Protection, Fair Trading Division (Consumer Safety Unit), Room 412, 1 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0ET by 31 May.

Alan Williams will open the annual conference of the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents on 3 March and chair the final discussion session on 4 March, a day that will be devoted to discussion of the issues raised in the Green Paper.

A research programme has been carried out over the past three years to establish the feasibility of setting up a system of collecting information on accidents occurring in the home, with the object of identifying the extent to which particular products or other factors may have contributed to those accidents. This is referred to in paragraphs 47 and 48 of the consultative document. A paper on this subject will be published shortly.

About 7,000 people in Great Britain still die each year as a result of accidents in the home and 100,000 more are admitted to hospital.

Committee to investigate proposed new holiday fares

The Civil Aviation Authority has established a special committee to investigate and report upon new air fares which British Airways are proposing to introduce on scheduled services to holiday destinations in Spain and Portugal from 1 April.

The proposed new fares were agreed between airlines at a recent International Air Transport Association conference. They are for a new type of holiday group facility on scheduled services between the UK and Spain/Portugal. The main conditions would be that a group must consist of a minimum of three persons (including children) travelling together both outward and return.

The new fares would be available for fixed durations of holiday between one and seven weeks, with travel out and return on the same day of the week. Once travel has commenced, no reservation changes or refunds would be permitted. The fare levels would range from £44.50 return for a night flight to Palma in the off-peak season (proposed normal economy class fare £142 return), to £85 return for a day flight to Malaga in the peak season (proposed normal economy class fare £180 return).

The new fares proposals have yet to be formally submitted to the CAA for approval but it has already been represented to the authority that they would have an adverse effect on the operations of airlines offering charter services and to tour operators offering inclusive tour facilities.

The special committee has been set up by the CAA so that all points of view may be taken into account in deciding whether or not to approve the new fares. Part of its investigation will be conducted at a meeting to be held at 10.30 a.m. on Wednesday, 10 March, at Aviation House, 129 Kingsway, London WC2. This meeting will be open to the public.

Anyone who wishes to take part in this meeting is invited to inform the authority by Friday, 27 February, and to supply a statement of their position and arguments, together with any supporting information by Wednesday, 4 March. The authority would prefer to make public as much of this material as possible and asks those supplying it to indicate whether they are content for it to be made public.

Material should be sent to the CAA, Economic Policy and Licensing Division, Room 334, Aviation House, 129 Kingsway, London WC2B 6NN.

Official appointments

The following appointment has been made by Eric Varley, Secretary of State for Industry. **National Research Development Corporation.** Professor A. W. Johnson to be a member. Professor Johnson is Professor of Chemistry and Honorary Director of the Agricultural Research Council Unit of Invertebrate Chemistry and Physiology, University of Sussex. He fills a vacancy at NRDC created by the resignation of Lord Todd, who has been elected President of the Royal Society.

NRDC membership is now: Lord Schon, chairman; Mr. W. Makinson, managing director; Dr. J. C. Cain; Mr. C. Jenkins; Professor A. W. Johnson; Mr. F. J. M. Laver; Sir Peter Matthews; Dr. A. W. Pearce; Mr. B. Stanley; Mr. L. V. D. Tindale; Mr. F. R. S. Wood.

Shirley Williams, Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection, has made the following appointments. **Merseyside and North Wales Electricity Consultative Council.** Councillor R. G. Beddoes JP, Councillor D. E. Caddick and Mr. W. H. Edwards to be members of the Council until 31 March 1977 and Mr. R. D. Jones JP and Mrs. C. C. Parry JP until 31 March 1978.

North Eastern Electricity Consultative Council. Mr. H. M. Shukla and Councillor D. Sleightholme to be members of the Council until 31 May 1978.

Welsh Consumer Council. Mr. Peter Ash and Mrs. Margaret Lloyd JP to be members of the Council.

Further £55 million for important sectors of industry

A further £55 million has been made available under Section 8 of the Industry Act towards schemes for the modernisation and restructuring of important sectors of industry. The additional provision was contained in a package of measures designed to alleviate unemployment announced by the Chancellor of the Exchequer in the Commons on 12 February.

The money allocated is expected to provide substantial employment in the industries supplying plant and equipment and in the construction industry. The balance of payments should also benefit.

Possible candidates for assistance under the new tranche of money set against industry schemes are as follows:

Industry scheme	*Likely provision £ million*
Extension to existing ferrous foundry scheme	up to 15
Non-ferrous foundry	20
Printing machinery	18-20

The sum of £110 million has already been allocated by the Chancellor to industry schemes and this money has now been fully committed. Progress on industry schemes which have so far been announced under this earlier provision are as follows:

Machine tool scheme

Details of a scheme of assistance for the metal-working machine tool industry were announced on 5 August 1975.

Despite the difficulties facing the machine tool industry in the present economic climate, the response up to now has been encouraging. Over 30 machine tool manufacturers have been holding discussions with the Department of Industry before submitting applications, and the Department is currently considering formal applications from 10 firms for assistance of £3.5 million on projects totalling about £10 million in aggregate value.

Ferrous foundry scheme

A scheme of assistance for the ferrous foundry industry was announced in August 1975.

So far, about 300 companies have expressed interest in the scheme and 91 applications have been received for assistance of approximately £14.5 million in respect of projects costing around £61.5 million overall.

Further substantial applications are expected to come forward involving assistance of about £7 million against an overall investment of roughly £30 million. Six applications have been approved involving assistance of £0.7 million in respect of projects costing £4.8 million.

Clothing and paper

In addition, a large number of applications have been received under a clothing industry scheme announced in September 1975, and a scheme of assistance proposed for the paper and board industry is in an advanced stage of preparation.

Industry Act assistance interest rates reduced

The maximum rate of Interest Relief Grant and interest rates for loans under Section Seven of the Industry Act 1972 are reduced with effect from 16 February.

The rate of Interest Relief Grant available in those cases where it would be appropriate to allow an interest free period on a Department of Industry loan – but where firms prefer a commercial loan – is reduced from 13 per cent to 12½ per cent for each interest free year.

The 'concessionary' rate of interest on loans for employment-creating projects (Category A) is reduced from 10 per cent to 9½ per cent. The 'broadly commercial' rate of interest on loans for modernisation projects not providing additional employment (Category B) is reduced from 13 per cent to 12½ per cent.

Dockside scene at Ellesmere Port. The roll-on roll-off vessel *Alpha Conveyor* is loading a mixed cargo for the Sudan. It consists of a vast array of stores and equipment including generators, mechanical excavators tractors and lorries for Sir Alfred McAlpine and Co. McAlpine is constructing a system of canals and watercourses which will form an irrigation grid for the Sudanese Government's Kenana sugar project.

Insurance companies' winding-up rules 'are on the way'

Stanley Clinton Davis, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for companies, aviation and shipping, said this week that the Department of Trade had started work on revising the rules for winding up life assurance companies.

Addressing the Faculty of Actuaries in Edinburgh, Mr. Clinton Davis said: 'With the best will in the world, winding up can be very protracted and the main sufferer from the delays and uncertainty is the policyholder. We have started work on revising the rules for winding up life assurance companies, but it is a vast and complex task. Inevitably it will take a long time.

'It was for this reason that we felt it essential that the Policyholders' Protection Act should increase provision for intervention by the Policyholders Protection Board, at their discretion, to assist policyholders before a winding up order was made. The Policyholders Protection Act is a long stop. The primary concern of our policy of protecting the policyholder is to ensure the continuing solvency of companies, and to this end we are continuing to tighten up our supervision through our powers under the Insurance Companies Act 1974 and through the detailed regulations that we are preparing.

'Accordingly we see recourse to the Policyholders Protection Board as being quite exceptional. Indeed, unlike the promoters of most legislation, our desire is to see this Act invoked as little as possible, and the board inactive – even redundant. A risk of adding to our material redundancy problem which we gladly assume.

Insurance supervision

'In view of recent difficulties,' said Mr. Clinton Davis, 'though we see no need to depart substantially from the relatively free system of supervision we have followed up till now, we do consider it necessary to sharpen up and refurbish the present system. To some extent this is taking the form of strengthening the position of the company's actuary, in recognition of the central role he must play in the operation of a life assurance business.

'For example, the Insurance Companies Act now attaches certain formalities to the appointment of the actuary and to the termination of such an appointment, and it is planned that the annual balance sheet certificate, provided by the appointed actuary, should in future make specific reference to the nature and term of the assets as well as to the value of the liabilities.

'The qualifications required for appointment as actuary are under active consideration at the present time, ie whether something more than the Fellowship of the Faculty or of the Institute should be required of aspirants to the very responsible position where they will be advising professionally on the finances of a life assurance fund.

'Officials of my department, advised as always in such matters by the Government Actuary, are consulting the Faculty and others concerned on that subject.

'It is second nature to actuaries, from their professional training, to seek to secure the equitable treatment of life assurance policyholders; for fulfilment of their contracts as a minimum, and for a proper share of any surplus if their contracts entitle them to participate in profits.

'The Secretary of State, too, is now required to have regard not only to contractual obligations but also to the reasonable expectations of life assurance policyholders.

'What expectations might be reasonable, in any particular case, will have to be determined in the light of the circumstances, but it is certainly our expectation that companies which charge large premiums, with a loading for bonuses, will, in fact, make profits to be shared with their policyholders, and will not take credit for the value of future bonus loadings so that they can hold smaller reserves than a non-profit company would.

'On the other hand, we do not envisage any general intervention in the determination of the amount of surplus to be disclosed by companies, or the manner in which it is distributed between policyholders of different generations or different classes. We would hope that this could continue to be left to the directors acting on the advice of their actuaries, particularly in view of the strengthening of the actuary's role in the legislation and of the description of that role in the guide for appointed actuaries, issued last May, jointly by the Faculty and the Institute.

Code for actuaries

'This sets out very clearly what the professional bodies expect of their members who accept the position of appointed actuary to a life office and if appointed actuaries adhere to that code, and companies act in accordance with their advice, it is unlikely that we shall see a recurrence of recent difficulties.

'I can assure the Faculty and the Institute that they have the Government's support in their efforts to ensure that actuaries are in a position to maintain their professional standards whatever the commercial circumstances of the companies they serve.

'Let me describe briefly one way in which it is our intention to give tangible support. The guide says it is the appointed actuary's duty to take all reasonable steps to ensure that he is, at all times, satisfied that if he were to carry out an investigation into the financial condition of the long-term business, including a valuation of the liabilities, the position would be satisfactory. To that end, he must secure that he is given adequate information concerning the terms and conditions on which new contracts are being issued, on the company's continuing investment policy and its marketing plans.

'It is the Government's intention to support this by requiring a certificate from the appointed actuary to the effect that he has been receiving the necessary information from time to time.

'The precise terms of the certificate are currently under consideration and on this matter too we shall shortly be consulting the Faculty and others concerned. It has also been suggested to us that the directors should be asked to certify that they have in fact kept the actuary informed on those vital matters, and we are considering that suggestion too.'

Insurance Companies Act 1974: Authorisations

The following authorisations to carry on insurance business in Great Britain were issued by the Secretary of State for Trade under Section 3(1) of the Insurance Companies Act 1974 during the period 1 January to 31 January 1976.

Name of insurer, registered office or address in Great Britain	Country of incorporation if outside Great Britain	Date of authorisation	Class or classes of insurance business for which authorisation was issued
Colonial Mutual Life (Pension Annuities) Ltd., PO Box No. 60, 24 Ludgate Hill, London EC4P 4BD	—	16.1.76	OLT
Greville Insurance Ltd., 142 Holborn Bars, London EC1N 2NH	—	16.1.76	OLT

Classes of business:

I	Industrial assurance business
LIAB	Liability insurance business
MAT	Marine, aviation and transport insurance business
MV	Motor vehicle insurance business
OLT	Ordinary long-term insurance business
PL	Pecuniary loss insurance business
PA	Personal Accident insurance business
PROP	Property insurance business

Price Commission interventions during January

During January the Price Commission rejected 22 notifications of price increases from manufacturing and service companies in Categories I and II. In another 18 cases the companies concerned withdrew their notifications of intended increases and in 66 cases the extent of the increases was reduced by the Commission. See lists below.

Since the beginning of Stage 4 on 20 December 1974, the Commission have rejected a total of 180 notifications and modified 929. Three hundred and two notifications were withdrawn.

During January, following discussions with the Price Commission, 11 distributors and one manufacturer in Category II agreed to make price reductions amounting to £1.26 million in order to eliminate excess gross or net profits as revealed in their periodic returns.

Following inspection of records kept by enterprises in Category III, the Commission's Regional Offices secured the agreement of 114 distributors, 25 manufacturers, seven service enterprises, 28 professional enterprises and two construction enterprises to make price reductions amounting to £3.20 million in order to eliminate excess gross or net profits. In addition, the Regional Offices secured a total of 37 individual voluntary price reductions following investigation of complaints about price increases.

Note

The Price Commission may intervene to reject or modify notifications submitted by Category I and II enterprises at any time during or after the 28-day period which must elapse before the increase can be implemented.

Announcements about price increases where the Price Commission has not intervened are the responsibility of the company imposing the increase.

Rejections

Company	Product	% increase sought
Category I		
Crittall Warmlife Ltd.	Greenhouses	10.00
Dale Farm Foods Ltd.	Cottage cheese	8.92
ICI Ltd.	Methylamines	24.83
Philips Electrical Ltd.	Fan heaters	4.94
Watney Mann and Truman Holdings Ltd.	Beer in cans and non-returnable bottles for wholesale distribution	0.52
	Beer in cans and non-returnable bottles for sale in off-licences and managed houses	0.01
Category II		
Addressograph-Multigraph Ltd.	Office machinery and associated parts and supplies	5.38
	Office machinery and associated parts and supplies	5.28
Alldays Peacock and Co. Ltd.	Industrial fans	7.50
Barrow Hepburn Group Ltd. (Leather Division)	Hides	18.85
Braby Group Ltd.	Roller based products:	
	Movolock Sam 5	9.80
	Easy Rider	10.25
	Night Rider	10.59
Bristol Automation Ltd.	Measurement and control instruments	18.00
British Vita Co. Ltd.	Polyurethane blocks and conversions	15.56
Castle Laundry Ltd.	Laundering charges	5.36
Crane Ltd.	Grey iron valves	5.90
Gabriel Mfg. Co. Ltd.	Flexible waveguides and metallic tubes	10.70
Hago Products Ltd.	Wire, tube and plastics products	9.90
Leighton Laundry Ltd.	Laundering charges	6.85
Long and Hambly Ltd.	Rubber and plastic mouldings	6.37
Loud and Western Ltd.	Laundering charges	3.00
Paxmans Ltd.	Laundering charges	3.82
RFD Group Ltd.	Marine liferafts, lifejackets, and inflatable boats	10.80

Withdrawals

Company	Product	% increase sought
Category I		
Cadbury Ltd.	Chocolate and sugar confectionery	0.63
ICI Ltd.	Vinylidene chloride	12.21
	Quicklime	1.50
	Sulphur dioxide	13.80
Nitrovit Ltd.	Animal feedingstuffs	2.90
Pirelli Ltd.	Covers, tubes and flaps	8.55
Category II		
Barratt and Co. Ltd.	Sugar confectionery	1.85
Barrow Hepburn Belting Ltd.	Industrial belting and safety harness	75.42
	Canvas and plastic goods and industrial safety equipment	51.64
Bridon Fibres and Plastics Ltd.	Ropes and twines	1.69
Eastern Counties Farmers Ltd.	Animal feedingstuffs	3.76
C. E. Heinke Ltd.	Rubber and plastic mouldings	11.40
London Hydraulic Power Co. Ltd.	Hydraulic power	28.00
Midland Shires Farmers Ltd.	Animal feedingstuffs	3.91
Philip Morris and Co. Ltd.	Marlboro cigarettes and Boars Head tobacco	3.18
Nairn Floors Ltd.	Linoleum	5.00
National Adhesives and Resins Ltd.	Adhesives	7.00
	Bondmaster	9.60
Portals Water Treatment Ltd.	Industrial inspection service	9.52 per visit
Stothert and Pitt Ltd.	Vibrating rollers	3.00

Modifications

Company	Product	% increase sought	% reduction made (percentage points)
Category I			
Advance Laundries (Eastern) Ltd.	Laundry and dry cleaning services	5.51	4.19

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INDUSTRIAL & COMMERCIAL PROPERTY

Company	Product	% increase sought	% reduction made (percentage points)
Advance Towelmaster (Eastern) Ltd.	Towel cabinet, linen, garment and air freshener hire services	7.84	0.62
APCM Ltd.	OPC/RH cement	6.66	0.11
	Special cements	5.10	0.04
Beaverbrook Newspapers Ltd.	Cover price of *Daily Express* and advertising rates of *Sunday Express*	0.68	0.03
BOCM Silcock (NI) Ltd.	Animal feedingstuffs	1.42	0.04
Boulton and Paul Ltd.	Frame products	8.70	0.32
Cannon Industries Ltd.	Domestic appliances and related spares	8.15	3.60
Coventry Climax Engines Ltd.	Fork lift trucks	1.63	0.04
Firth Brown Tools Ltd.	Engineers' cutting tools	8.13	4.46
Gent and Co. Ltd. and Agro Electrical Co. Ltd.	Fire alarm equipment, sound signals, luminous call equipment, electric clocks lighting accessories, etc.	15.40	8.21
ICI Ltd.	Aromatic products	15.76	6.64
IMI (Kynoch) Ltd.	Non-ferrous wire and tape	11.82	5.02
Kraft Foods Ltd.	Retail and catering frozen foods	5.25	1.34
Marley Floors Ltd.	Adhesives	1.52	0.72
	Adhesives	5.18	0.08
OP Chocolate Ltd.	Chocolate confectionery novelty bars	12.52	1.27
Potterton International Ltd.	Central heating boilers, electric storage heaters, storage radiators and related equipment and spares	2.53	1.00
Procter and Gamble Ltd.	Soaps and detergents	5.00	0.72
Raleigh Industries Ltd.	Bicycles, bicycle components, toys, prams, push-chairs, car seats and other components	1.05	0.71
	Toys	1.05	0.71
RHM Flour Mills Ltd.	Bakers' and similar flours	2.34	0.26
Smiths Industries Ltd. (Vehicle Instrumentation Division)	Vehicle instruments	9.24	0.15
Texaco Ltd.	Car parking charges	169.00	22.04
Tinsley Wire Industries Ltd.	Industrial and agricultural wires	3.86	0.02
Yorkshire Imperial Metals Ltd.	Non-ferrous tubes, tube plates, fittings and valves	10.56	3.55
Category II			
Aberthaw and Bristol Channel Portland Cement Co. Ltd.	Cement	6.66	0.11
Ace Engravers Ltd.	Printers' plates	3.20	0.08
Airfix Products Ltd.	Toys	5.09	0.06
Avery-Hardoll Ltd.	Metering equipment and ancillary fittings	16.30	3.80
CBS Manufacturing (Records Division)	Cassettes and cartridges (TC 8's)	14.90	1.09
Century Oils Ltd.	Lubricants, petroleum added products, industrial hygiene products and engine coolants	12.61	0.10
Chubb and Son's Lock and Safe Co. Ltd.	Safes, strongroom doors, lockers, bank screens, etc	6.59	1.40
Crane Ltd.	Malleable and cast iron fittings and conversion sets	5.02	0.02
East Anglia Plastics Ltd.	Cellulose acetate moulding powder	11.50	3.74
Thomas Eastham and Son Ltd.	Kitchen furniture in factory assembled and customer assembled form	10.90	0.16
Engart Fans Ltd.	Industrial fans	9.82	0.32
General Foods Ltd.	Ground coffee	16.10	1.40
Harp Lager Ltd.	Lager	3.92	0.05
Heatons Ltd.	Plastic baths and panels	7.50	0.17
Hickson and Welch Ltd.	Pentachlornitrobenzene	41.64	3.10
	Trichlornitrobenzene	9.03	1.27
Johnson Group Cleaners Ltd.	Dry cleaning and allied services	6.69	2.46
The Ketton Portland Cement Co. Ltd.	Cement	6.66	0.11
Lankro Chemicals Ltd.	Surfactant range	18.22	2.12
Max Factor Ltd.	Cosmetic and toilet preparations	8.34	0.23
Metzeler Ltd.	Rubber/metal bondings	9.03	0.05
Ribblesdale Cement Ltd.	Cements	6.66	0.11
Rovex Ltd.	'Hornby' and 'Scalextric' toys	16.34	1.99
The Rugby Portland Cement Co. Ltd.	Cement	6.66	0.11
Sadler and Co. Ltd.	Bulk liquid haulage	8.50	1.15
The Sanitas Trust Ltd.	Camberwick Green toothpaste, foam bath and shampoo	9.10	0.10
Ben Sayers Ltd.	Golf clubs and putters	4.34 to 12.90	0.22 to 0.46
	Golf bags and sundries	0.71 to 4.24	
Seddon Diesel Vehicles Ltd.	Commercial vehicles	3.54	0.01
Sefton Newspapers Ltd.	Advertising rates	3.88	0.54
Sevalco (Holdings) Ltd.	Carbon black	8.61	2.71
Sterling Homecare Division of Sterling Winthrop Group Ltd.	'Shift' oven cleaner	5.17	0.37
Solent Laundry Ltd.	Laundering charges	10.67	9.84
Tunnel Cement Ltd.	Cement	6.66	0.11
UK Optical Co. Ltd.	Spectacle frames: NHS (newfit)	6.38	0.23
United Carriers Ltd.	Carriage of goods by road transport	3.80	1.40
Van Leer (UK) Ltd.	Steel drums	0.84	0.04
Viscosuisse Textured Yarns Ltd.	Polyamide and polyester textured yarns	16.90	4.27
Ward and Goldstone Ltd.	Electrical cables	3.12	0.77
Webley and Scott Ltd.	Gunmaking and precision engineering products	3.60	0.40
Yorkshire Chemicals Ltd.	Hardeners, fillers, primers	8.00	0.90
	Urea formaldehyde based resins	4.70	0.05

'How to cope with doorstep salesmen'

A leaflet designed to help people recognise and cope with unscrupulous doorstep salesmen has been published by the Office of Fair Trading.

In May 1974 the OFT asked local authorities, Citizens' Advice Bureaux and other consumer organisations for information on six trading practices – including doorstep selling. Following a study of the problem OFT felt the public needed to be warned of the dangers, even though the Consumer Credit Act as it comes into force will have a considerable effect on doorstep selling (for instance the need for many doorstep salesmen to have credit licences).

Last September OFT produced a poster: 'Doorstep salesmen come in many guises. Be on your guard!' This is now followed with the leaflet 'How to cope with doorstep salesmen' which illustrates and explains just a few of the many ploys used by the dishonest fringe of doorstep salesmen to gain people's confidence. It is hoped that the leaflet will help people deal with similar situations should they occur.

After alerting people to the possible openings used by such salesmen the leaflet suggests a number of points to consider when dealing with them; for instance, 'Do I want to buy anything? . . . Is he who he says he is?' and 'Can I afford it?'. Finally it stresses the point that 'whether you buy for cash or on credit "signing on the dotted line" is the moment when you commit yourself' and urges people to read all documents carefully before signing.

The leaflet, which is free, can be obtained from Trading Standards Officers, Consumer Advice Centres and Citizens' Advice Bureaux. The Office of Fair Trading feels the leaflet would be of particular assistance to housebound and elderly people and immigrant households and has asked local authorities to extend distribution to cover social services and welfare workers. Copies of the leaflet can be ordered from: Central Office of Information (LH 502), Hercules Road, London SE1 7DU.

Government Publications in the West

from

Her Majesty's Stationery Office, Wine Street, Bristol, BS1 2BQ

Eric Varley sets up National Maritime Institute

Eric Varley, Secretary of State for Industry has set up a National Maritime Institute within the Department of Industry to take over the work at present carried out by the Maritime Science and Ship Divisions of the National Physical Laboratory.

In a written answer to a parliamentary question on 16 February from Alf Bates (Bebington and Ellesmere Port) he said:

'I have decided that the work of the Maritime Science and Ship Divisions of the National Physical Laboratory can best be furthered by their incorporation into a new National Maritime Institute which will shortly be set up within my Department. The setting up of the Institute will mark a further stage in the devolution of activities from the National Physical Laboratory which will be able to concentrate increasingly on its primary role as the national centre for standards. Mr. J. W. Nichols has been appointed director-designate of the National Maritime Institute.'

Note

Mr J. W. Nichols is an under secretary (formerly Chief Scientific Officer) in the Department of Industry, currently serving as head of the Research and Development Contractors Division. He will initially serve as a deputy director of the NPL, becoming director of the Institute on its inception, which is planned for 1 July.

The aims of the institute will be to continue and develop the work now undertaken at NPL. For government this work is concerned with safety, including sea wave and wind loading effects on offshore structures, and with support for UK shipbuilding, shipping and offshore interests. A wide range of consultancy and design services are also available on a commercial basis to UK and overseas customers.

An Institute Board will be established to determine the balance of the work programme of the institute. It will be chaired by the Chief Scientist, Department of Industry, and its members will be drawn from government departments and the industries concerned.

Staff for the new institute will be transferred from NPL but the work will continue to be carried out at the existing sites – at Feltham, on the main NPL site at Teddington and at the Marine Trials Base at Hythe on the Solent. The headquarters of the institute will be on the Feltham site.

The setting up of the institute will mark a further stage in the devolution of activities from the NPL when the work develops to a point warranting a separate research establishment. Precedents include the Building Research Establishment, the Transport and Road Research Establishment, the Radio and Space Station and the National Engineering Laboratory, all of which have their origins in the NPL.

Joint study of computing services industry

The Computing Services Association (CSA) and officials of the Department of Industry and the Central Computer Agency are holding a series of meetings during which relationships between the computing services industry and government are being discussed.

A Steering Group consisting of representatives from the government departments concerned and the CSA's Government Liaison Committee, has been set up and has reached agreement to carry out two initial activities: to proceed with a joint study of the industry in order to ascertain facts, to study developments in other countries, observe trends and to report to the Steering Group and in the light of this report to consider government policies as they affect the industry.

The results of the Study, which will be made available to members of the CSA, may be published later this year. The main terms of reference for the Study are to set out briefly the current state of the computing services industry and government policy towards it in the United Kingdom; to outline the situation overseas with particular reference to USA, Canada, Japan, the EEC and Scandinavia and the EEC Commission in relation to current and future policies. Against the background of the computer industry's potential in its own right, eg in terms of employment, technological importance, relation to GNP and productivity the role of the computing services industry in both home and overseas markets will be examined.

Research will also be carried out into the trends in user requirements, systems, hardware, software, packages, bureaux, minicomputers, telecommunications, etc. drawing out the significance of changes in the role of hardware, software and consultancy/design advice.

For the computing services industry, trends in company size and financial backing, including the national origin of such backing, will also be taken into account.

As a further factor in any future government policy towards the computing services industry, the situation five to 10 years from now, will also be considered, particularly with respect to the United Kingdom's competitive position in relation to other countries and the effect on exports.

The government departments concerned are contributing towards the cost of the study and it is expected that activity will commence early in February and be completed in June or July 1976.

Bankruptcy records for England and Wales

Details of bankruptcies in England and Wales are maintained in a public search room at Room 901, Thomas More Building, Royal Courts of Justice, Strand, London WC2A 2JY.

Searches can be made personally or by an agent and a fee of 25p in respect of each bankruptcy inquiry is payable at the time.

Maintenance of large aircraft

The Civil Aviation Authority has decided to seek changes in the legislation relating to the Certificate of Maintenance work on certain classes of large public transport aircraft.

The changes being sought will require operators of large modern aircraft to be approved by the Authority to undertake the maintenance of these aircraft, and all engineers who are authorised by the operator to certify maintenance will be required to have a valid licence issued by the CAA.

The present system places the ultimate responsibility for maintenance on individual licensed aircraft engineers whose certification work is made under the authority of their licence issued by the CAA.

The Authority is satisfied that the proposed system, first drafted some 10 years ago, and since developed in consultation with all the interested parties, has been proved by sample operations over the past five years.

The Authority believes that the new system will enhance the career potential of engineers in this field, and will also help to establish a more uniform standard for maintenance under the control of the CAA.

Scotia Investment Limited

Peter Shore, Secretary of State for Trade, has appointed Leonard John Bromley, QC, of 7 Stone Buildings, Lincoln's Inn, London WC2 and John Selby Hillyer, Chartered Accountant, of 21 Whitefriars Street, London EC4 to act as inspectors to investigate the affairs of Scotia Investments Ltd. under the provisions of Section 165(b) of the Companies Act 1948.

Clearance of merger proposals

Shirley Williams, Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection has decided, on the information at present before her, not to refer the following proposed merger to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission under the provisions of the Fair Trading Act 1973:

Dixons Photographic Ltd. and Weston Pharmaceuticals Ltd.

Britain's first dynamic drillship

The *Ben Ocean Lancer* afloat on the Clyde, just after launching from the Greenock shipyard of the Scott Lithgow Group. This is claimed to be the first dynamically positioned drilling ship to be built in Britain. The 17,728 tonne vessel is designed for exploration drilling for oil or gas in depths of up to 915m and will operate throughout the world for Chevron Overseas Petroleum. *Ben Ocean Lancer* will be able to drill in a fixed position without being anchored to the sea bed. Dynamic positioning is a computer-controlled process which involves the automatic checking of the ship's position at one-second intervals and adjusting it by making minute corrections in the propellor pitch settings.

Home News continued

New criteria needed for energy policy development

The need for new criteria governing the development of energy policy was stressed by Tony Benn, this week.

Mr. Benn, Secretary of State for Energy, was answering a parliamentary question from Albert Roberts, (Normanton) who asked the Secretary of State what steps he was taking to bring about a comprehensive energy policy to meet future demands by the industry with a view to obtaining stability and competitiveness.

Replying, Mr. Benn said: 'The governing assumptions and methods by which energy policy has developed over past years now need to be re-examined in the light of changing circumstances. New criteria, for example the need for long-term conservation measures and the need to develop all the fuel industries on a secure basis to meet the expected energy gap in the 1990's and beyond are required. The key role of government in developing an integrated energy policy in conjunction with the industries and those that work in them also requires further consideration. This should be done as publicly as possible so that the interests of domestic and industrial consumers long term, as well as short term can be safeguarded, along with the interests of supplying industries, and the community as a whole. I intend to proceed on this basis.'

Financial confidence in North Sea demonstrated

The confidence of the financial community at home and abroad in the UK sector of the North Sea as an area for profitable investment has been amply demonstrated by recent financial transactions. This was stated by John Smith, Minister of State at the Department of Energy on 10 February in Parliament.

In answer to a question from Peter Hardy (Rother Valley) who asked the Secretary of State for Energy what progress was being made with finance for North Sea oil development, Mr. Smith said:

'It was announced on 4 February that syndicates led by the International Energy Bank and the Republic National Bank of Dallas had completed arrangements for loans of $175 million and $100 million to Occidental and Thomson, respectively, for their shares of the development cost of the Claymore field. Thomson also announced the availability to them of a $40 million facility from a syndicate led by the Royal Bank of Canada. The arrangements for the $275 million loans by the International Energy Bank and the Republic National Bank of Dallas were the subject of discussion with my Department, and my Rt. Hon. Friend consented to them.

'I am pleased to say also that the recent £75.75 million stock issue by London and Scottish Marine Oil Ltd. and Scottish Canadian Oil and Transportation Ltd. designed to raise their share of Ninian costs proved attractive to investors and was fully successful.

'The Government welcomes the successful conclusion of these two transactions, in which it was glad to play its part. They reflect credit on their organisers and amply demonstrate the confidence of the financial community, here and abroad, in the UK North Sea as an area for profitable investment.'

Patents endorsed 'Licences of Right'

Under Section 35 of the Patents Act 1949 the following patents were endorsed 'Licences of Right' on the date(s) specified.

Number	Grantee	Subject-matter
2 February 1976		
1,222,481	Societe Anonyme Automobiles Citroen	Improvements in or relating to road vehicle lighting equipment
1,222,482	Societe Anonyme Automobiles Citroen	Improvements in or relating to vehicle lighting systems
1,223,092	Societe Anonyme Automobiles Citroen	Improvements relating to road vehicle lighting equipment
1,172,877	Geoffrey William Thomas	Improvements in or relating to work benches
1,227,965	The Republic of France represented by Le Ministre des Armees, Delegation Ministerielle pour l'Armement (Direction des Poudres)	Improvements in or relating to derivatives of (1,3,8)-oxadiaza-(4,5)-spiro-decane
1,273,586	Institut De Recherches Chemiques et Biologiques Appliques (IRCEBA)	Bacterial culture extracts
1,332,793	Frederick George Taylor	Improvements relating to anti-theft devices for use with trailer couplings
1,342,998	Coal Industry (Patents) Ltd.	Apparatus for extracting gas from rock strata overlying a coal seam
1,378,816	Thomas Schmidt AS and Gustrav Erik Hummelshoj	Improvements in and relating to methods for steam-heating casting moulds and casting moulds for use in connection therewith
1,391,425	Glaverbel-Mecaniver	Electrically heated panels
1,406,629	Institut National du Verre	Coated glass and method of coating glass
3 February 1976		
1,311,418	Societa Italiana Resine SIR SpA	Process for producing sodium sulphate
1,324,346	Societa Italiana Resine SIR SpA	Process for polymerising ethylene
1,325,800	Societa Italiana Resine SIR SpA	Method of purifying polymerisable organic substances
1,333,487	Societa Italiana Resine SIR SpA	Method of manufacturing lightweight building components
1,333,488	Societa Italiana Resine SIR SpA	Process for preparing beta, beta'-bis-(3,5-dichloro-4-hydroxyphenyl)-propane
1,333,489	Societa Italiana Resine SIR SpA	Process for preparing beta, beta'-bis-(3,5-dibromo-4-hydroxyphenyl)-propane
1,333,637	Societa Italiana Resine SIR SpA	Process for preparing aluminium trichloride
1,334,558	Societa Italiana Resine SIR SpA	Method of depolymerising polyethyleneterephthalate
1,361,035	Societa Italiana Resine SIR SpA	Method of preparing high molecular weight polyoxymethylenes
1,377,991	Societa Italiana Resine SIR SpA	Stabilised polymer composition
1,239,714	International Standard Electric Corporation	Telecommunication exchange
1,269,888	International Standard Electric Corporation	Signalling supervision unit in automatic telecommunication exchange
1,329,396	International Standard Electric Corporation	Circuit arrangement for switching load circuits
1,338,970	International Standard Electric Corporation	Time-division multiplex exchanges
1,228,557	Standard Telephones and Cables Ltd.	Method of marking documents
1,336,976	Standard Telephones and Cables Ltd.	Insulating toroidal transformers
1,347,929	Standard Telephones and Cables Ltd.	Improvements relating to telephone subscriber's instruments
1,407,351	Standard Telephones and Cables Ltd.	Injection lasers
1,045,941	Societe Anonyme	Improvements in disc brakes, in particular for automobile vehicles
1,114,635	V.D.O. Adolf Schindling AG	Tank contents measuring device for motor vehicles
1,172,921	Engineering and Chemical Supplies and Services Ltd.	Process and apparatus for treating vegetables

Any person who claims that the patentee at the time of endorsement of any of the above patents was precluded by a contract in which claimant is interested from granting licences under the patents may apply for cancellation of the endorsement on Patents Form No. 45 within two months after the date of endorsement.

E. Armitage
Comptroller

Protection for employees in insolvency

From 20 April an employee who loses his job when his employer becomes insolvent will be able to claim through the Redundancy Payments Fund arrears of wages, holiday and some other payments owned to him.

The provisions of the Employment Protection Act dealing with insolvency are brought into force from 20 April by the second Commencement Order*, published on 11 February.

The debts covered are:

1 Arrears of pay up to a rate of £80 a week for a period not exceeding eight weeks. Pay includes salaries, wages, commissions, guarantee payments under the Employment Protection Act, medical suspension payments, payment for time off work and remuneration under a protective award.
2 Holiday pay up to a rate of £80 a week – that is pay in respect of holidays actually taken and accrued holiday pay – up to a limit of six weeks according to entitlement in the last year.
3 Pay in lieu of notice up to the statutory minimum entitlement (under the Contracts of Employment Act 1972) at a rate not exceeding £80 a week.
4 Any payment outstanding in respect of a basic award (by an industrial tribunal) of compensation for unfair dismissal.
5 Reimbusement of apprentice's or articles clerk's fees.

No qualifying period is necessary before an employee becomes eligible and the provisions apply to almost all people in employment.

An employee who believes he is entitled to repayment under these provisions should apply for payment to the employer's representative (eg, receiver, liquidator, trustee, etc.) Any payments made have to be authorised by the Secretary of State for Employment.

The Act transfers to the Secretary of State for Employment the legal rights and remedies in respect of the debts so that he will seek to recover from the employer's assets the cost of the payments made.

* SI 1976 No. 144 (C.5) HMSO price 12p.

Time Rates of Wages and Hours of Work

A volume of tables giving particulars of the minimum, or standard, time rates of wages for the more important industries and occupations, and of the normal weekly hours for which these rates are payable. The details given relate to the position as at April 1, 1974, but any later changes known to have come into operation are shown.

£2.40 (*by post* £2.57).

Government publications can be bought from the Government Bookshops in London (post orders to PO Box 569, SE1 9NH). Edinburgh, Cardiff, Belfast, Manchester, Birmingham and Bristol, or through booksellers

HMSO BOOKS

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In the Advance Factories in the Areas for Expansion, you not only get a brand-new factory, but you also may not have to pay any rental for it over the first 2 years. And that's only one of the ways you can benefit from the Advance Factory programme.

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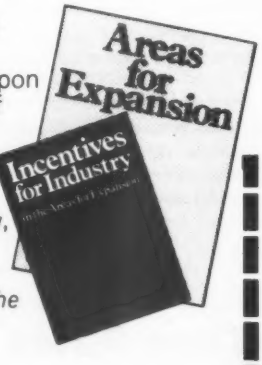

To: The Industrial Expansion Team, Department of Industry, Millbank Tower, Millbank, London SW1P 4QU

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ISSUED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY

IN ASSOCIATION WITH THE SCOTTISH ECONOMIC PLANNING DEPARTMENT AND THE WELSH OFFICE.

Britain's future civil aviation policy

Under the Government's new 'spheres of interest' policy for civil aviation, British Airways and British Caledonian Airways should strengthen their ability to compete with foreign airlines because they will be providing complementary not competitive services. This is stated in a White Paper* on civil aviation policy published last week, and follows the announcement of the new policy and the ending of dual designation on long-haul routes made by Peter Shore, Secretary of State for Trade, in July last year.

Economic background

The White Paper explains the background to the new policy including the effects of the oil crisis and the economic recession. It says: 'There is now virtually no major long-haul route on which it would be possible to introduce a second British airline on terms which would leave any scope for the British share of the total earnings from the route to be increased.'

Even on the North Atlantic routes, 'the situation has changed dramatically in the past few years'. Both the US and UK Governments had concluded that the excess of capacity over demand in 1973 and 1974 wasted resources, damaged the airlines' finances and was even contrary to the interests of passengers.

Exchange of routes

Since Mr. Shore's announcement last July, British Airways and British Caledonian have discussed a limited exchange of routes to consolidate their 'sphere of interest'.

The results, set out in the White Paper are that: British Airways will be the sole UK scheduled operator to North America (except Atlanta and Houston) and East Africa and the Seychelles, in addition to its other existing long-haul routes; British Caledonian will be the sole UK scheduled operator to South America (taking over certain destinations from British Airways), West and Central Africa and Atlanta and Houston in the United States. The exchange of routes involves both airlines giving up a number of licences for existing or proposed services.

The White Paper says that the Government believes that the re-arrangement of routes is fair to both airlines, and that it provides a stable basis on which they can plan for their future development.

* The White Paper 'Future Civil Aviation Policy', Cmnd. 6400, was published last week. Copies are available from HMSO price 30p net.

With complementary, rather than competitive services, 'the way will be open for much closer co-operation in all aspects of their business from engineering and maintenance to marketing and sales. The two airlines have agreed that they should hold continuing discussions at senior management level to examine all possible means of strengthening collaboration between them to their mutual benefit. The Government regard this as an encouraging development'.

Concorde

The White Paper says that it is of 'national importance' that British Airways should be able to deploy its Concorde fleet effectively. British Caledonian might provide a Concorde service within its own sphere of interest, by arrangement with BA. But the Government does not rule out BA introducing a Concorde service alongside BCal's current subsonic services. In those circumstances arrangements would have to be made to alleviate adverse effects on British Caledonian.

Skytrain

The White Paper says that the Secretary of State has carefully considered whether Laker Airways' proposed Skytrain service should be allowed despite the policy of ruling out double designation on long-haul routes.

A wide range of charter services and promotional fares has developed in the past few years. There is now much less scope for Skytrain-type services to generate new traffic and much of the traffic would be diverted from other existing services. The introduction of the Skytrain could jeopardise arrangements between the UK and US Governments to rationalise capacity on routes between the two countries.

The US would almost certainly insist on a reciprocal service and British Airways would lose an estimated £6 million a year. The White Paper says that the Government has decided that Laker Airways' designation as a scheduled operator should be cancelled. The Skytrain licence will be dealt with in accordance with the new policy guidance.

Revised policy guidance

A revised policy guidance for the Civil Aviation Authority, embodying the changes proposed by the Secretary of State, is included in the White Paper. It requires the approval of both Houses of Parliament.

The White Paper says that the Secretary of State's aim has been to avoid making unnecessary changes in drawing up his present proposals.

The industry needs 'reasonable stability in the policy framework governing its operations' if it is to maintain and strengthen its competitiveness in the world aviation market.

If approved, the new guidance 'should remain substantially unchanged for a considerable period of years'.

The revised guidance to the CAA covers air transport licensing, safety, air navigation services, pricing, international matters, environment, information, research, consultation and financial objectives.

Commons statement

In the House of Commons Mr. Shore said: 'Since my last statement there has been a series of detailed discussions between BA, BCal, the Civil Aviation Authority and myself about how the airlines' existing route networks could best be adjusted so as to consolidate their respective spheres of interest. I have now decided that in Africa, where BA and BCal at present operate competing services, East Africa and the Seychelles should in future be in BA's sphere of interest and Central Africa, including Zambia, in BCal's. This exchange should enable both airlines to achieve considerable cost savings through deploying their resources more effectively.

Outside Africa, BCal will give up the licences to operate scheduled services to New York, Los Angeles, Boston, Toronto and Singapore via Bahrain, which it holds but is not at present exercising. It will also end the exempt charter services it operates to Singapore. However, it will retain the right to serve Atlanta and Houston – a route for which BA does not hold a licence – and will be the sole British airline to operate this new route when it becomes available for international services. In addition, BCal's sphere of interest in South America will be extended and it will take over services to Venezuela, Colombia and Peru from BA.

'In making this re-arrangement of routes, my objectives have been first, to reinforce the competitive strength of British airlines in the fierce international environment in which they operate; secondly, to arrive at a result which is as fair as possible to both airlines; thirdly to safeguard employment in the airline industry; and finally, to produce a settlement that would last for a substantial period ahead.'

Government Publications in the Midlands

from

Her Majesty's Stationery Office, 258/259 Broad Street, Birmingham B1 2HE

Industry in focus:

One of the new Hook high-power holding anchors – available in sizes from 5 to 60 tonnes and capable of holding up to 50 times their own weight. The anchors can be adjusted to suit various seabed conditions by altering slightly the design of the fluke. Throughout the world giant drilling platforms, mooring systems and associated equipment are increasing in weight almost daily. These increases call for anchors with a holding power up to 1,200 tonnes. The new Hook anchor has been designed by Fielding and Bacon Ltd., Erith, Kent.

Tellurometer MRB 201 microwave electronic distance measuring installation. The system – from Tellurometer Ltd., Chessington, Surrey – is being used throughout the world for hydrographic surveys, harbour dredging operations, positioning of oil rigs and offshore pipelines, and berthing and mooring super tankers.

offshore supplies

A British company offering on-the-spot mud-logging, computerised data logging and instrumentation services to companies engaged in the North Sea offshore industry, is to expand its area of operations. NEC Gas Analytic Service International Ltd., Kilwinning, Ayrshire – is to begin operations shortly in south east Asia and Egypt. The picture shows a unit on the Sedco 703 rig, currently being used in the North Sea by BP.

A complex machining contract being carried out by F. H. Lloyd and Co. Ltd., Wednesbury, will play a significant part in a new system of erecting deep-water oil rigs in both North Sea and Australasian offshore operations. The company is machining multi-faceted locking faces of a series of breech blocks which lock together each 70-foot length of tubular steel platform leg which is pile driven section by section into the sea bed up to a depth of 200 feet. The picture shows test locking in progress.

Helping the small firm

Cyril Jewkes, Manager of the Birmingham SIFC, talks about the build-up to an inquiry rate of 10,000 a year

1

This week, Birmingham Small Firms Information Centre – congratulated recently for setting a specialist company on the road to a £100,000 a year turnover – welcomed its 15,000 inquirer.

Ken Lucas, managing director of Mechanical Power Handling (Birmingham) Ltd., made a return call to 53 Stephenson Street, this time for information about overseas marketing.

'When we were having administration problems some 15 months ago, the Centre signposted us to experts who managed to straighten things out,' he said. 'I must admit, I came along then with tongue in cheek. But I went away with a lot of useful information and it is really as a result of the progress we have made since that we are ready for the next step and want to move into the export market. We design, manufacture and install special purpose equipment mainly for the steel, re-rolling, foundry and forging industries, including a range of steel plummer-block housings which are proving very successful. What we want now is where we can find the necessary back-up to selling abroad – the right sales support, agencies, status information.'

As 'case history No. 15,000', Mr. Lucas was welcomed at the Centre by John Thompson, Regional Director, West Midlands Region, Department of Industry, and Cyril Jewkes, manager of the Centre. Also present were representatives of two of the Centre's earlier success stories, Ronald Reid, a director of KAC Alarm Co. Ltd., Alcester, who make fire alarms, and Malcolm J. Prior, a partner in the Stourbridge firm of West Midlands Time Recorders.

'These are typical of more and more of our case histories,' said Mr. Jewkes. 'We opened two and a half years ago with the role of signposting inquirers to the most appropriate source of information. It was a service that had never been heard of before and we were a government department . . . with all that implied.

That was a little over two years ago. Now the reverse is true. People know we do a good job, and that's the only way to run a service like this. Satisfied customers only is our motto.'

As part of a national network of information centres Birmingham has seen its inquiry rate grow to almost 10,000 a year. Since October last they have handled more than 3,200 inquiries. That is almost the 12-month total for their opening year.

'The goodwill that we have created has kept us going and increased a work load which covers a very wide range of questions,' said Mr. Jewkes.

case histories

Inquirer: West Midlands Time Recorders, New Street, Stourbridge.
Problem: How to export time recording machines to the Middle East.
Solution: Introduction to services of Department of Trade who provided lists of agents interested in selling these machines abroad.
Comment: 'Our second contact with the Centre. We were again impressed with the commercial attitude shown. Previously they tracked down in half an hour an overseas clockmaker. Probably saved us days of checking trade directories' Malcolm Prior, partner.

Inquirer: KAC Alarm Co Ltd., Bulls Head Yard, Alcester.
Problem: How to cut production time in manufacture of fire alarms by bonding a nylon switch to a thermo plastic moulding.
Solution: Inquiries led to Explosives Research and Development Establishment, Essex, who provided the technical answer.
Comment: 'It could mean a gigantic saving in production time . . .' Ronald Reid, director.

Inquirer: Travel Gas (Midlands) Ltd., New Street, Birmingham.
Problem: How to set up a distribution business for liquified petroleum gas – dispensing tanks, conversion kits for lorries, cars, etc.
Solution: Advice on business registration. Signposting to experts in appropriate fields, including sources of supply, resulting in a turnover of £100,000 a year after 18 months.
Comment: 'We used the Centre as an extension to our office.' James Green, managing director.

2

3

'People wanting technical information, and sources of supply, information on diversification and manufacturing under licence, legislation, government departments. There are also the firms with money troubles and people who want to know how to start up in a business. We have even been asked how to recycle rubber chips.

'But there are also many other not-so-straightforward cases and additionally the promotional side of the Centre. To promote mutual help and understanding of common problems we are helping two small firms clubs in our area and a third is about to start up. We have held an area clinic so that small firms away from the main Birmingham area would not be forgotten.

We are also helping business administrative trainees to undertake a two-week counselling assignment in small firms as a practical conclusion to their course and also provide the individual firm with a chance of free assistance.

'At the Centre, businessmen can visit us here to talk about their immediate problems, look ahead at potential weaknesses and determine their future needs.

'We want more and more small firms to know about our 10 Small Firms Information Centres because undoubtedly businessmen can get a great deal of benefit from the wide range of information and assistance available.'

1
Cyril Jewkes (left), manager of the Birmingham SFIC, with James Green, managing director of Travel Gas (Midlands) Ltd., Birmingham, among the most successful of the Centre's inquirers. The company sought the Centre's guidance when setting up a distribution business for liquefied petroleum gas.

2
Ken Lucas (right), managing director of Mechanical Power Handling (Birmingham) Ltd., and Birmingham Small Firms Information Centre's 15,000 inquirer, is met at the Centre by John Thompson, Regional Director, West Midlands Region, Department of Industry, and shows a photograph of the company product which led to his inquiry about export marketing.

3
Cyril Jewkes (centre), manager of the Birmingham Small Firms Information Centre with (left) deputy manager Tom Kennedy, and Bob Perrins, the Centre receptionist.

4
Ronald Reid (left), director, KAC Alarm Co. Ltd., Alcester, who make fire alarms, and Malcolm Prior, a partner in the Stourbridge firm West Midlands Time Recorders. See 'case histories'.

4

Small Firms Information Centres

Centre	Telephone	Freefone area	Freefone	Telex
Birmingham	021-643 3344	West Midlands	4054	337919
Bristol	294546	South West	9910	449650
Cardiff	396116	Wales	1208	497515
Glasgow	041-248 6014	Scotland	846	779334
Leeds	445151	Yorks/Humberside	5361	557687
London	01-828 2384	London & South East	2079	917920
Luton	29215	Eastern	372	826115
Manchester	061-832 5282	North Western	6005	667952
Newcastle	25353	Northern	529	537429
Nottingham	49791	East Midlands	4062	377313

Technology News

New satellite moving into position

The latest in a new generation of cost saving Intelsat communication satellites is now moving towards its operating position over the Atlantic after its recent successful launch.

This is the second in a series of six Intelsat IV-A communications satellites designed to handle the world's mounting telecommunications traffic through to 1979 and will be used as a back-up to the first Intelsat IVA which is about to enter service. It has 6,250 two-way voice circuits plus colour television channels and will serve more than 40 Earth stations in the Atlantic region.

The giant Intelsat IV series of satellites now ringing the Earth has had a major effect on the costs of Transatlantic telephone calls. In 1966 a telephone call to New York placed by the operator cost a minimum of £3 for three minutes. Today, using international subscriber dialling it costs 75 pence per minute. This significant reduction in price, accompanied by a dramatic growth in overseas telephone calls is a direct result of the ease of calling made possible by these satellites.

BAC, Electronic and Space Systems has been directly concerned, under contracts from Hughes Aircraft Company of California, with this commercial enterprise since 1969 and to date have manufactured 10 sets of major sub systems for the Intelsat IV and IVA satellites including the spun structures, booster adapters, despun components, cable harnesses and solar arrays.

The INTELSAT Organisation is made up of 91 nations using the Intelsat global system which currently includes two Intelsat IV satellites over the Pacific, two over the Indian Ocean and three over the Atlantic Ocean. COMSAT, the Communications Satellite Corporation, operates the system as management services contractor for INTELSAT.

Intelsat IV-A, now the largest and most powerful satellite in the global system, is initially planned for use in the Atlantic region. But INTELSAT intends to launch a further four IV-A's some of which will provide service in the Pacific and Indian Ocean regions.

The steady growth and advancement of satellite technology has kept in step with the economic advantage of using satellites. The new Intelsat IV-A carries an antenna system of advanced design that concentrates signal beams like spotlights into the world's communication and business centres on both sides of the Atlantic via 16 of 30 transponders.

Using beam separation, a technique enabling re-use of the frequency, Intelsat IV-A concentrates separate beams that take in most of the Americas and Canada as well as Europe and Africa, with no overlap and wasted power in mid-Atlantic.

Wind tunnel tests on a scale model of the Rock of Gibraltar, carried out at the Building Research Establishment, following severe storm damage to part of the water catchment area on the east side of the Rock. Tests revealed that the catchment was only vulnerable to strong winds from a narrow sector, arising from the shape of the Rock itself. Additional venting in the catchment screen has been recommended, as the cheapest and simplest way of reducing the risk of future damage.

Developed at the Safety in Mines Research Establishment, this 'airstream' anti-dust helmet is now being manufactured by Racal-Amplivox. Dusty air is filtered before being channelled over the face. Applications will include stonecutting, sandblasting, fibreglass processing, welding and many other industries.

Is your system reliable?

The Systems Reliability Service of the United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority is running, in collaboration with Liverpool University, a course on 'An Introduction to Reliability Assessment, Theory and Practice', to be held at the University, from 22 March-2 April 1976. This covers techniques applied to both nuclear and non-nuclear industries.

The course is for engineers and technologists concerned with achieving adequate reliability in complex equipment and systems and should be equally interesting for designers, operators and managers, as well as their support staff. It includes the mathematics of probability and its application to testing and maintenance of equipemnt and prediction of failure rates, system synthesis and modelling, including electrical networks, computer analysis techniques and data bank services, etc. The lecturers include staff from SRS and the Universities of Liverpool, Birmingham, Bradford and Manchester.

These courses have been attended by staff from a wide range of industries, for example: defence, aerospace, oil, chemical, glass, shipping, atomic energy, computer, fire protection, North Sea gas, electricity production and distribution, steel, consultants and universities – many of them from Europe.

Nominations at a fee of £200 (£170 for Associate Members of SRS) exclusive of VAT and accommodation, are invited. Applications to attend should be addressed to: Miss M. Sutton, Systems Reliability Service, UK Atomic Energy Authority, Wigshaw Lane, Culcheth, Warrington WA3 4NE (tel. Warrington (0925) 31244, ext. 318.)

Building research on show in Glasgow

Offshore structures will be one of the main items of research in the Building Research Establishment display at Scotbuild, to be held at Kelvin Hall, Glasgow, from 16 to 20 March. The BRE Scottish Laboratory at East Kilbride is examining a range of aggregates – some of which will produce concrete of the required strength and workability at a lower cement content than others.

At BRE, Garston, ground engineering experts have worked with the National Physical Laboratory to design the gravity foundation for an experimental tower which will measure the forces of the waves on offshore structures such as oil rigs. The tower is now in position in Christchurch Bay and its behaviour will be monitored by instruments including earth pressure cells and piezometers to measure soil conditions on the sea bed.

At the Fire Research Station, experts are studying the possibility of a fire on an offshore oil rig and methods of rapid detection and extinction. Successful experiments have assessed the effectiveness of a foam sprinkler installation on a typical North Sea oil platform.

Also on display will be work on thermal insulation including a study of two groups of local authority houses in Scotland – one group well insulated and the other built to comply with 1972 Building Regulations.

Part of a successful series of experiments at the Fire Research Station, in which new methods were used to control fires in simulated oil rigs. The effectiveness of a foam sprinkler installation on a simulated North Sea oil platform has been assessed, and the performance of fluorochemical and fluoroprotein foam liduids has been compared. The fire conditions simulated those likely to be met if fire broke out in one of the complex arrays of piping and machinery which are a feature of operational platforms. Both types of foam liquid performed effectively in all fires, and the results of the first phase of this work have already been made available for the planning of the fire protection of existing and future rigs both in the United Kingdom and overseas.

A progress survey of construction sites in Scotland, the avoidance of condensation in roofs and problems in the design of swimming pools are other research topics featured in the exhibit.

Representatives of the Building Research Advisory Service, which has its Scottish office at the BRE Scottish Laboratory, will be on the stand to explain how the service works and discuss construction problems.

Cardboard – keeping the damp out

Up till now, one of the disadvantages of corrugated board has been that it is not waterproof. Vickers Ltd., at Crayford, now have the licence to manufacture a new machine, the first of which, the Vickers Resco Cascade Wax Saturator, totally saturates the flutes and liners of corrugated board with wax, increasing water resistance and strength. Using low viscosity wax, this involves an advanced 'waterfall' technique; wax flows over both leading and trailing edges of two weirs to provide four cascades of hot wax.

Compared with wax coating, the saturation system has distinct advantages. After treatment, the corrugated fibre board can withstand extreme moisture and the new method actually increases the structural and stacking strength. This means it can complete favourably with wood, plastic, and in some instances, metal. At the same time, it remains cheaper and lighter than many other materials.

In contrast to the earlier method of wax saturation, which involved dipping boards into hot wax, the new machine prevents moisture in the board being boiled out by the heat of the wax so that the board retains its pliability.

In North America, wax saturated boxes are already being used for fresh and frozen fish, poultry, meat, fruit and vegetables as well as for pallets, storage bins and for other containers.

The first of these machines has been ordered by Ashton Containers of Bristol and inquiries have been received from overseas, particularly from tropical countries.

The handwriting on the computer

It is important to be able to convey handwritten and drawn information to computing systems. Most existing devices such as light pens, etc. are relatively expensive, wasteful of computer time, and impede the writer by attaching wires or linkages to his stylus. A cheap input terminal (CHIT), developed at the National Physical Laboratory, overcomes most of these problems and is suitable for use in remote interactive systems using the public telephone network as the communication link.

CHIT offers a simple and cheap means for providing graphic information in the form of a sequence of electrical signals by drawing or writing on a sensitive surface with no constraint on the type of stylus used. The surface may be covered by paper to provide both visual feedback while writing and hard copy.

The device consists essentially of two orthogonal resistive strips separated by an air gap. Pressure from writing on the upper strip, which is flexible, deforms it into contact with the lower strip. Electrodes are connected across the ends of the strips so that, when a current is passed through one strip, a uniform voltage gradient is developed along its length. The voltage at the point of contact will then be proportional to its position on the x axis. The other strip is used as the 'wiper' of this potentiometer and will attain this voltage.

By changing over the electronic switches the situation is reversed so that the other strip acts as the potentiometer and the first becomes the wiper for the y value. These reversals are repeated fast enough to sample the x, y co-ordinates of the path traced by a moving stylus.

A simple monitoring circuit is provided to ensure co-ordinates are not distorted by poor contact. For computer applications these co-ordinates are then expressed in binary digital form using a analogue-digital convertor. For handwritten character input the prototype incorporates a one-line character display based on a gas-discharge-tube matrix. For other applications lamp-illuminated legends would be sufficient.

CHIT tablets have been used for: on-line handwritten character recognition using sequential information: real-time signature verification and data entry as a programmable keyboard and as a 'light pen'.

NRDC is seeking a manufacturer prepared to exploit the CHIT design under licence. In the first instance please contact Peter Hawkes, Computers and Automation Group, NRDC.

Korean growth could rival Japan's

A personal view of the market situation by Frazer Wright, Business Editor, *Sheffield Morning Telegraph* following a recent visit to the Republic of Korea.

Twenty years ago, investment by a British company in the industrial future of Japan was rare, but today, such a maturing investment would be evidence of a rare business acumen.

Hindsight is all very well, but it doesn't belong to business. Much more to the point is the fact that some UK companies have identified and taken action on what could be a parallel situation – with a much shorter time scale – in the Republic of Korea.

South Korea is now on the industrial launch pad which will inevitably lead to the sort of economic prosperity found by its neighbour across the China Sea. Korea will also undoubtedly learn from Japanese experience. Theirs is a one-stage economic expansion, aimed directly at the advanced engineering/electronics market, heavy engineering and construction. There will be no breathing space half way, no transition period of cheap assembly plants. The Koreans have passed briefly through that stage already, and discarded it as unworthy of their skills.

To many people, who have to dredge their memory for more than a dim chord about Korea, this sounds over-ambitious, perhaps even imaginative, but official trade figures indicate otherwise. In 1975 the Republic of Korea sold Britain nearly £75 million-worth of goods. They bought from the UK over £52 million-worth of products.

Better balanced

If one compares these figures with those of Japan they look modest enough, but the two-way trade is better balanced. If both sets of figures are studied in relation to Korea's current stage of development they become much more impressive. So much so that experienced observers in Seoul are now convinced that within the next decade Korea could rival, and perhaps even oust, Japan in some markets.

There is a very definite set of priorities over imports into Korea, which is not in the market for consumer goods. Imports are needed to stiffen the industrial economy – to relate directly to further production for sale overseas. For example, of the £52 million in purchases from Britain, almost 95 per cent is in the form of machinery and transport equipment. Chemicals account for some of the balance.

So they are taking development seriously. If you need more evidence of that, it can be found a few miles from Seoul in the Fine Instrument Centre, a UNESCO development headed by Dr. T. J. Takats. Established in 1966 as a training institute, it has mushroomed into a serious and hard-working standards centre for the country.

Calibrating soon became important, and by 1972 the centre began evolving a set of standards for the country which are directly related to international standards. Next came testing, and finally, quality testing was added too, and offices opened in America, Europe and Japan – more examples of the Korean Government laying considerable emphasis on the development of the necessary infrastructure for a strong industry.

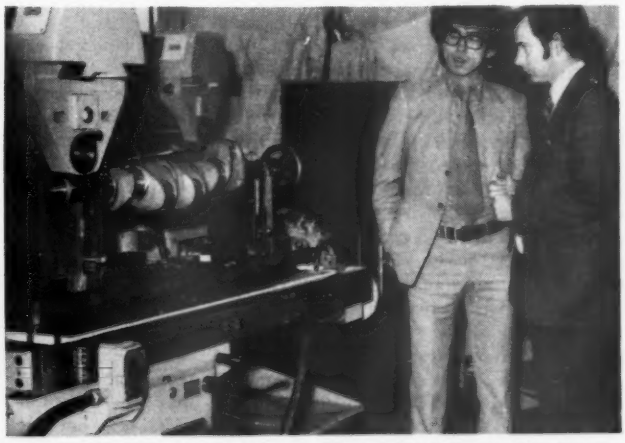
Throughout this development, the centre has retained its initial role as a training centre, adapting the traditional patience and talent of the Koreans to engineering. Dr. Takats, born in Hungary but with considerable experience in England, sees this growth as typical of the Korean desire to move quickly to the manufacture of high quality products.

'The electronic industry here is in its second phase now. Designs will have to be imported for a while, but the emphasis already is on better, more reliable components,' he said.

As an experienced engineer, concerned with manufacturing problems of products such as taps and dies, he emphasises the opportunity for British firms in this sector of the market. A joint venture operation, for instance, which would involve the manufacture of special steels – high tensile for example – might be ideal for a British company wanting a stake in Korea.

One man who has spent a long time studying the chances of British expansion in Korea is Peter Fluck, commercial attaché at the British Embassy in Seoul. 'In direct imports,' he said, 'the Koreans are looking for high technology, advanced engineering. In other words, the kind of equipment and know-how that will help their ambitious development programme. They are very open to investment on a joint venture basis, in a 50–50 partnership and the opportunities for British companies are almost limitless.

'With a relatively modest investment, say from about £100,000 up, it is quite possible, using the facilities provided,



Leicester-based milling machine manufacturers Adcock-Shipley Textron are currently despatching eight machines worth more than £84,000 to be installed in the new diesel engine plant of the Hyundai Motor Company in Korea, which is to manufacture a range of Perkins engines.

to find a Korean partner, finding a site at very low cost or rent with a guarantee of tax redemption for a number of years. There is also a guarantee, which has always been kept, of the ability to export one's profits.'

Ideal for joint venture

Korea, he suggested, was an ideal place for a British company to use their experience and technology in a joint venture, and then export the goods to other markets in the Far East. Such a move could bring considerable benefits, he said.

Just how much the Korean Government welcome joint ventures is underlined by the development of the Chang Won industrial base, near the major port of Pusan. Taxes on foreign firms are exempt for five years, and reduced by 50 per cent for the three following years. Business taxes on exports are entirely exempted, as are all import taxes of goods subsequently designed for re-export. Apart from the guarantee of profit and dividend remittance, foreign investors can, after three years of operation, remit principal.

The government has a firm shopping list for developments at Chang Won, starting with foundry and forge products, special steels, seamless pipes and tools. The list continues through engineering products such as dies and moulds, hydraulic devices, bearings – even basic nuts and bolts. Machinery plant requirements include textiles, chemicals, car components and marine machinery.

One feature which will surprise the UK businessman is the speed of establishing the roots of a business. Within a fortnight of a firm inquiry, government permission can be obtained. Once the application is accepted, the whole machine swings into action and within months the plant could be almost complete.

This quartz crystal controlled C17 master clock unit and its associated equipment gets a final inspection at the factory at Chloride Gent Ltd., Leicester before shipment to the Republic of Korea for installation at the new National Assembly Hall in Seoul. The system comprises 632 'slave' clocks of various designs, including large double-sided models, which will maintain a timekeeping accuracy of one-hundredth of a second a day.

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V. Duffy

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K. A. Miller; A. N. Percy

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BOTB News

Duke of Kent to open technology exhibition in Malaysia

The Duke of Kent will visit Kuala Lumpur from 4-7 April and will open the British Technology for Malaysia Exhibition. The Duke, who is a member of the British Overseas Trade Board, will take up an appointment later this year as Vice-Chairman of the Board.

The British Technology for Malaysia Exhibition, organised with the support of the BOTB is being staged in the Changkat Pavilion, Kuala Lumpur from 5-12 April. There will be over 320 British firms taking part, many of them major companies, and a very wide selection of British products will be on show. Exhibits range from construction plant and equipment, food processing machinery, machine tools, forestry equipment and woodworking machinery to offshore and oil equipment and medical, hospital and laboratory scientific equipment.

The BOTB has arranged a number of special exhibits which will illustrate a variety of British technological developments, as well as new and advanced equipment. Among these will be a new hydraulic cutter for jungle clearance, a unique heating panel for home and industry, offshore survey vessels, the Rolls-Royce Olympus engine, and a submersible craft for offshore and other underwater surveying.

This important British exhibition is the first of its kind in Malaysia, and the strong support being given by British industry clearly demonstrates its desire and capability to continue to play its part in Malaysia's development of her economy, and the products being exhibited are related to the needs of current development plans there.

Paris office for hire to visitors

The British Chamber of Commerce France now has an office available for hire at its Paris premises by visiting businessmen. The hire of the office includes the use of an executive desk, and visitors' chair, office materials, cupboard and drawer space.

The Chamber's library and information services can be consulted free of charge, but a prolonged information search will be charged for by the hour. The office can be locked and the keys held by the hirer throughout the hire period. A personal assistant is available to help with making appointments and so on at no extra charge. Full secretarial service including shorthand/typing in English and French is charged by the hour.

The telephone is charged for according to use (separate meter). Telex is available and charged for according to use. Arrangements can be made to use the chamber as a postal address. No charge is made for this service between firm hirings, and for 30 days after the last hiring. A telephone answering service is also available, and charged according to the number of calls received and their length.

A cancellation charge of 20 per cent may be made if a hiring is cancelled within one week of the date of the booking.

8000 EXPORTERS

FIS carry out continuous research into the activity of UK exporters —who they are, how much they export, and to which countries.

The 1976 Exporter Lists give concise details of the 8,000 exporters who are collectively responsible for virtually the whole of the UK's exporting activity. They are contained in 10 booklets, each covering a geographical area of the UK. 1,900 companies and their subsidiary units exporting more than £1m a year, and those exporting more than half their output, are specially identified.

We also produce separate lists of UK exporters to individual countries and areas, including West Germany, France, Holland and Belgium, Italy, Spain and Portugal, Scandinavia, Eastern Europe, the Middle East and the Far East. Lists of exporters to other countries are in the course of preparation.

FIS Exporter Lists, now in their fourth year of publication, are invaluable aids to companies serving the export trade, for direct mailing, telephone selling and as sales call lists.

For sample sheets, price list, and order form please telephone or write to:

FREIGHT INFORMATION SERVICES,
Adelphi Chambers, Hoghton Street, Southport, Merseyside PR9 0NZ. Tel: Southport (0704) 38515.

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Exhibitions and Fairs

Records and publishing put music in Cannes

From J. J. Patanchon, Commercial Officer, British Consulate General, Marseille: Held at the Palais des Festivals, Cannes, on the 23-29 January, the 10th International Record and Music Publishing Market (Midem) attracted some 515 exhibitors from 42 countries. More than 5,100 trade visitors attended the event. Great Britain was again the leading foreign participant, with 53 British firms exhibiting, sponsored by the BOTB, in collaboration with the British Phonographic Industry and the Music Publishers Association. Many other British firms took part independently.

British companies have always done well at Cannes. This year was no exception. The great majority of British exhibitors reported excellent business prospects and were more than satisfied with their performance. Among the companies which did well were: Red Bus Music and Co., record producers and music publishers, having received many expressions of interest for licensing deals from France, Australia, South Africa, Canada, South America, and the USA; Valentine Music Group Ltd., publishers, concluded many deals for master productions on a royalty basis with West Germany in particular. They have also been able to set up their own record label in Belgium and Japan.

Belsize Music Ltd., tape producers and music publishers, secured firm export orders on their stand from Australia, West Germany, and Japan; Noel Gay Music Ltd. secured firm sub-publishing deals from the USA, Scandinavia, and have renewed existing arrangements with Holland and South Africa; Melodix Records, marketing master tapes overseas on a royalty basis, have taken firm orders on their stand from companies in West Germany, Sweden, Holland, and Belgium, and have received six serious inquiries from other export markets.

Kassner Associates Ltd., fully independent record manufacturers and distributors, and music publishers, received substantial orders for records and tapes from leading European and Scandinavian countries; Peerless Records Ltd., producers and distributors, secured firm licensing concessions for the release of their productions in Portugal, Australia, Belgium and Italy; Cetec Audio Ltd., manufacturers of high speed tape duplicating equipment and instrumental loudspeakers, received serious inquiries from all over the world; another company, MCI, professional studio equipment manufacturers, took substantial export orders from Greece, Yugoslavia, and Holland; Fittall Products Ltd., cassette rack manufacturers, already exporting to 27 overseas markets, concluded licence arrangements in three new territories; Penny Farthing Ltd., record producers and music publishers, renewed existing licensing accords with a number of countries and have made contacts with new markets such as Brazil and Japan.

Finally, BBC Records, who had taken a stand for the first time, were more than satisfied with their performance having secured substantial orders from Japan, Scandinavia, Greece, Belgium, Spain and the USA.

The International Record and Music Publishing Market is reported to be a well established event. Indeed, representatives of the profession are unanimous in considering that Midem is an excellent platform for record producing and music publishing companies to present their respective 'pop' music material and allied products to the music world. Furthermore, Cannes and its Croisette, together with the galas associated with this highly specialised event which are held in a specially erected marquee near the pleasure harbour, are all contributing to Midem's raison d'être.

Mr. R. Arculus, CMG, Minister (Economic), British Embassy, Paris, paid an official visit to Midem and toured the British stands. The next International Record and Music Publishing Market will be held in Cannes from 21-27 January 1977.

Full capacity confectionery orders at Cologne

From the Commercial Department, British Embassy, Bonn: At the second International Sweets and Biscuits Fair (ISM) in Cologne in 1972, the British confectionery and biscuits industry was represented by eight companies on the joint-venture stand sponsored by the British Food Export Council, in conjunction with the BOTB. Since then their presence had steadily increased during the past years to a record participation of 33 companies at the 6th ISM held from 2-6 February this year. It is realised by the confectionery industries and trade all over the world that this event is now the most important in this field in the world. Some 7,300 important buyers from 42 countries visited the fair, of whom 38 per cent were foreign visitors from Europe and overseas countries, including the United States and Australia.

The uniform shell stand required by the organisers was used by the British joint venture to the best advantage. Bright colours and open stands on which the products were effectively displayed attracted a large number of buyers. The first order was placed on one of the British stands half an hour before the fair opened on the first day; the last order was written when the stand contractors were already in the process of knocking the stands down after the closing of the fair. Firm orders taken by British exhibitors on the joint-venture stand were in excess of £2 million, and some of the British exhibitors stated that as a result of their participation they would be working to full capacity during the next 12 months.

In general, the buyers of large organisations tended to come in groups to negotiate better terms for bulk orders. This proved to be of advantage to smaller British exhibitors or newcomers to this fair, as the large buyers visiting existing British contacts also looked around their stands. Discussions on quality of product and negotiation of better terms were very much in the foreground, whereas price discussions were of secondary importance, at least as far as the German industry was concerned. Prices of the German industry remained fairly stable. The next ISM will take place from 31 January to 4 February 1977.

More exhibitors at Paris lighting show

From Robert Hyde, Second Secretary (Commercial), British Embassy, Paris: The 11th International Lighting Exhibition was held at the Porte de Versailles exhibition park from 15 to 20 January. In all, 299 manufacturers exhibited, compared with 272 at the corresponding show in 1975. Of 140 foreign exhibitors from 16 countries, Britain accounted for 14 in a joint venture sponsored by the Decorative Lighting Association. According to preliminary figures the total attendance was 22,742, including 3,417 foreign visitors from 65 countries; these figures are impressive for an exhibition strictly reserved for the trade, and compare not unfavourably with those for 1975, when attendance benefited from the adjoining International Furniture Show.

The joint venture contained fewer companies than in the previous year, but it was noteworthy that nine of the British firms had also exhibited on that occasion. Among those returning to the salon, Limelight and Lumex anticipated particularly good results in France in 1976, while one of the newcomers,

Allied Engineering, attracted an encouraging volume of inquiries for their range of modern lighting intended mainly for offices, hotels and churches.

The Paris International Lighting Exhibition this year maintained the reputation established by its predecessors as a well-organised, professional show enjoying strong international participation.

Offshore Britain in Singapore

Britain was the largest national exhibitor at the first-ever Offshore Oil exhibition in south-east Asia which was held in Singapore from 17-20 February. A total of 36 British firms were exhibiting, sponsored by the BOTB in association with the CBMPE.

The British firms showed equipment and supplies and services for the offshore oil industry, including a new floating hose, position fixing systems, pump and compressor equipment, explosive gas detection equipment, cathodic protection systems and welding equipment. In addition, the CBMPE, the Association of British Oceanic Industries and the Department of Energy each had information stands at the exhibition.

The importance of this international event was further emphasised by the concurrent conference when over 45 speakers – eight of them British – took part. The British team read papers on Lightweight Industrial Gas Turbines in Offshore Installations, Economics of Cathodic Protection of Offshore Structures, Heat Treatment of Welded Offshore Structures, Comparison and Choice between Steel and Concrete Platforms, Construction and Installation of Deep-Water Production Platforms and Aspects of Modern Control Valve Technology.

Building industry economic barometer at Munich

From C. Pattinson, Vice-Consul (Commercial), Munich: Bau '76, the 5th international trade fair for building materials, building systems and building renovation took place from 22-29 January at the Munich fair grounds. The fair attracted 150,000 visitors from 51 countries who took the opportunity to see the products of 952 exhibitors from 15 countries.

The fair, which was regarded as an economic barometer for the building industry, underlined the general feeling in the trade that the German building industry was now coming out of depression and that things would now cautiously improve.

As is to be expected at an exhibition for building materials, where transport distances play a considerable role, the majority of the exhibitors came from Germany. However, Great Britain took a worthy second place amongst the foreign exhibitors with a showing of nine firms, the largest foreign contingent coming from Spain with 12 firms.

All nine British firms were on three joint-venture stands organised by the building materials export group in co-operation with the BOTB. Three joint ventures were necessary as the exhibition was divided into product categories. At the end of the show it can be said without reservation that all of the British exhibitors were more than satisfied with the results of the exhibition. To quote only two examples, William Kenyon and Sons (Vicuclad) Ltd. who were showing their Vicuclad fire-protective cladding for steel structural work, who had come to the exhibition to find stockists/distributors, said that they had been inundated with inquiries, many of them from potential distributors, and that they were quite confident that in the near future they will be able to set up distribution arrangements throughout Germany.

Another very satisfied exhibitor was British Uralite Ltd. who were showing two products: firstly cellactite, a protected steel sheeting, and nuralite, a semi-rigid asbestos bitumen roofing material. Their efforts were mainly concentrated on nuralite where they had had some difficulties in obtaining the necessary approval and for which they were also looking for distributors. In the event, they were visited by a committee member of the approval organisation who was very enthusiastic after having seen the product and was confident that he would be able to obtain approval for them as well as a large number of interested distributors.

The above two examples, which are typical of the British participation at this exhibition, underline the fact that Bau has become one of the most important building materials exhibitions in Europe and it can only be hoped that even more British firms will use this excellent shop window for their products at the next fair in four years' time.

Award for best book display at New Delhi

From A. G. Simmons, Second Secretary (Commercial), British High Commission, New Delhi: British publishers played a significant part in the Second World Book Fair held in New Delhi between 16-25 January at the prestigious Hall of Nations Complex of the International Fair Grounds. The British section consisted of six publishers who participated in a joint venture organised by the BOTB and the Book Development Council, the Export Division of the Publishers' Association, HMSO and the British Council – the latter receiving the award for the best display in the international section.

Throughout the fair British books were much in evidence not only on the stands of local publishers with strong British connections but also on those of many independent agents and stockists. The event attracted considerable interest with extensive coverage being given in the press and on radio and TV. In excess of 125,000 people, including representatives of 600 libraries from all over India, attended, as well as a number of publishers from overseas, some of whom read papers at the concurrent seminar.

Indian Government ministers made official visits and some, I am glad to say, returned in a private capacity, placing orders in the British section. The fair provided a splendid opportunity both to promote further sales – British books already account for 38 per cent, worth £1.5 million of the imported books market – and to strengthen even further the close ties between British and Indian publishers.

India's Prime Minister, Mrs. Gandhi, at New Delhi's 2nd World Book Fair.

Missions and Tours

Chinese visit to British coal mines

At the end of an intensive three-week long tour of British coal-mines and coal industry machinery manufacturers, a nine-man group of Chinese coalmining specialists paid a formal call on Sir Derek Ezra, Chairman of the National Coal Board, and a member of the British Overseas Trade Board.

The Chinese group, led by Mr. Yin Chih-sheng, Deputy-Director of the Shantung Coal-mine Design Institute, and Mr. Feng Yu-chun, a Deputy-manager of the China National Technical Import Corporation, was accompanied by Mr. Peng Jun-min, Chinese Commercial Counsellor, the President of the Association of British Mining Equipment Exporters, Mr. John Rogers, and Chinese-speaking officers from the BOTB's Area Advisory Group, the Sino-British Trade Council.

During their UK tour sponsored by the Association of British Mining Equipment Exporters, the Chinese specialists inspected underground workings and surface plant at six main collieries and toured the factories of 20 important manufacturers of equipment for the coal industry. Discussions were held with NCB senior personnel and equipment company specialists on a wide range of technical subjects.

Sir Derek and the NCB have formed a close relationship with the National Coal Bureau of the People's Republic of China, stemming from the first visit by Chinese coal industry specialists to this country in 1972, when Mr. Yang Yi, Head of China's Coal Bureau, toured British mines and factories and had exploratory talks with Sir Derek at Hobart House. Following a second visit, China placed orders with British coalmining equipment manufacturers worth around £30 million.

The recent talks were wide-ranging and very cordial. Sir Derek outlined current and future plans for the development of the British coal industry and Mr. Yin Chih-sheng and his colleagues described the developments now taking place in China. Both countries are concentrating on similar long-term plans for the exploitation of coal as a main source of energy and have a common interest in new mining techniques and equipment.

Tayside trade drive

Dundee and Tayside Chamber of Commerce and Industry is sponsoring two outward missions later this year, to Finland in May and Australia and New Zealand in October/November, both in conjunction with the BOTB.

The mission to Finland is scheduled from 12-14 May and will be based in Helsinki. Participants, however, may wish to stay longer and possibly to visit other neighbouring Scandinavian countries; suitable arrangements can be made.

The itinerary for Australia and New Zealand will include Sydney, Melbourne and Auckland, and has been arranged for the 24 October to 10 November.

Seen here at the London Press Club are some of the members of an inward mission of European aviation journalists visiting this country as guests of the Electronic Engineering Association and the BOTB; left to right: Mr. A. Mondini, Editor *Alata Internazionale*, Mr. J. Guhl, Assistant Editor *Air et Cosmos*, Lord Barnetson, President of the London Press Club, Mr. S. Geisenheymer, Editor *Aerospace International* and Cdr. B. Malin, President of the Electronic Engineering Association.

Birmingham mission to Nigeria

One of the most important trade promotions arranged by the BOTB in Nigeria this year is a 20-man mission sponsored by the Birmingham Chamber of Industry which left on 15 February for a two-week visit. The mission represents a wide range of British industries and among the products they will promote are hand tools, surgical dressings, sanitary ware, hydraulic access platforms, electrical motors, vehicle springs, air filtration equipment, jewellery and furnishing fabrics.

Mr. D. J. Arthurs, a director of Newhall Agency Co. Ltd. of Birmingham, is leader of the mission. Two members of the BOTB's Tropical Africa Advisory Group – Mr. Tom Edgar from the Birmingham Chamber and Mr. J. F. Scotting, Export Director GEC Machines Ltd., Birmingham – are members of the mission and will meet senior government officials in Nigeria on behalf of the group.

The mission is based in Lagos for the first week, but a number of members are arranging visits to other centres in Nigeria and West Africa.

Food to Australia: post-mission seminar

Following a British Food Export Council mission to Australia, which will be supported by the BOTB from 16-24 March, the council is to give other food manufacturers an opportunity of assessing the market for their products by organising a seminar on 28 April at the World Trade Centre in London.

Ian Harrison, Director General of the Council, said: 'The seminar will include a general survey of the Australian market by a senior executive of the New South Wales Bank, a general review of the grocery trade in Australia and product group potentials in sugar confectionery, fish, cereals, Scotch whisky, fruit wines and other grocery products, as well as a panel of men with years of experience of selling food and drink in Australia who will be answering questions.'

For further information please contact Mr. Harrison, tel. 01-480 6594.

Letters to the Editor

Letters to the Editor should be addressed to the Editor, *Trade and Industry*, Room 437, 1 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0ET, and *not* to HMSO.

Export Business

Plant and equipment

Following completion of orders worth nearly £250,000 to supply vitrified clay drainage systems for two major contracts in Bahrain, Sheffield-based **Hepworth Iron Co.** has received substantial further orders for the supply of pipes for work on Bahrain's Mina Sulman development project.

Hymac Ltd., part of the Powell Duffryn Group, has won a contract worth more than £500,000 to supply hydraulic excavators to Guyana's Ministry of Agriculture. A number of machines will have special waterways cleaning front-end equipment and others will be equipped for general excavation work.

Gullick Dobson International of Wigan has received an order worth nearly £1 million for powered roof supports to operate in one of the world's highest mines amidst the Rocky Mountains of Colorado. The company already has equipment operating in one of the world's deepest mines in South Africa and in the world's most northerly mine, in Spitzbergen.

Metal Box Ltd. has just signed contracts worth £750,000 to supply can and twist-off cap making equipment to Poland. The deal includes a new can line due for delivery by the end of September which will be installed in a factory near Brzesko near Krakow.

Aveling-Barford Ltd. are to supply 100 5-8 tonnes tandem road rollers to Nigeria's Western Region Ministry of Works and Housing at Ibadan. This is the largest single order for tandem rollers ever placed with the company and forms the major part of a contract for road rollers and mobile crushers valued at £1,500,000.

The flour milling machinery division of the Rochdale engineering company, **Thomas Robinson and Son Ltd.**, has been awarded a contract worth £1.8 million for the design and supply of a large flour milling plant in Iran.

Wickman, the Coventry-based machine tool group, have secured a £600,000 order for the supply of multi spindle automatics to the Yugoslavian small tool industry. The machines will form part of the initial plant for a new factory being built in Mostar, a small town close to the Adriatic coast.

The mechanical, electrical and process division of **Taylor Woodrow Construction Ltd.** has been awarded additional work on its contract for the design, engineering, supply and supervision of the installation of phosphates beneficiation plants for Jordan Phosphates Mines Co. Ltd. The original contract of June 1975 was for £2.75 million; this has now risen to approximately £4.5 million. The new plant is part of the El Hasa Mine expansion programme.

The Aircraft and Industrial Hydraulics Division of **Automotive Products Ltd.** has won an order valued at nearly £350,000, for one of its Lockheed marine hydraulic control systems. Servicios Industriales de la Marina, the Peruvian shipbuilder, will fit the Lockheed system on a 25,000 dwt clean oil products carrier now being built at its Callao shipyards.

PI Corrosion Engineers Ltd. of Alresford, Hants, have been awarded a contract for the installation of a cathodic protection system on the existing berths at the Port of Dammam in Saudi Arabia. The contract is worth £140,000 and has been awarded by Hawker Siddeley Power Engineering Ltd.

Electronics/electrics

The Sudanese Ministry of Construction and Public Works have just confirmed to the **Lewis Electric Group** of Maidenhead, Berkshire, an order for generating equipment worth £142,000. At the same time a major Nigerian building supplies agency has ordered £30,000 worth of Lewis equipment, including nine Lewis Perkins 22-61KVA medium diesel generators.

An order has been received from the Swedish Board of Civil Aviation for five **Plessey** navaids Plan 17/18 instrument landing systems. Two of the five systems will be installed at the Landvetter International Airport now under construction at Gothenburg. This is scheduled to come into operational service in 1977 and is primarily designated to be Sweden's main cargo airport. The other three systems are to be installed at Norrköping, Ronneby and Angelholm.

GEC Turbine Generators has signed a contract with Calgary Power Ltd., Alberta, Canada, for a 380MW turbine-generator and auxiliaries and substantial additional plant and equipment. The contract price is approximately £13 million. The plant will be built mainly at GEC factories at Rugby, Trafford Park, Stafford and Larne.

Link Electronics of Andover has won an export contract worth more than £400,000 to equip a complete new broadcasting station in Kingston, Jamaica. Link's contract covers the design, equipment supply, and system installation for the production centre. It will include two complete television studios, master control and presentation areas, two multiplex telecine machines, a station monitoring system, microwave links to the transmitter site and the installation of three video tape machines.

Services/consultancy

Thomas Cook Bankers Ltd. have signed a licence agreement with **Mitsui Bank** allowing Mitsui to use Thomas Cook's name and cheque design in a new Japanese yen travellers cheque. The Mitsui Bank cheque will carry the familiar features of other Thomas Cook cheques and will operate in the same way and should, therefore, be immediately recognised and accepted throughout the world. In addition, Thomas Cook will act as distribution, servicing and refund agent for the cheque outside South-East Asia.

Matherson-Selig Ltd. of Ipswich have received an order valued initially at £80,000 from one of France's largest paint manufacturers, Tollens SA of Paris. The order is to supply merchandising aids, including colour cards and swatches, for use in retail outlets throughout France, Holland and Belgium.

Resource Planning Consultants Ltd., the specialist transport and distribution consultants of Guildford, has won a contract from the Swaziland Government to assist with with the development of the country's road transport network. Traffic is currently handled almost entirely by South African carriers, notably South African Railways, but Swaziland plans to develop its own independent road haulage system. Whilst this is taking place, the successful management and co-ordination of the transitional period will be critical to the maintenance of trade.

A contract worth nearly £1 million for the design, procurement and construction management of a textile finishing plant in the Republic of Sudan has been awarded to **Taylor Woodrow (Building Exports) Ltd.** The plant, which is for the bleaching, dyeing, printing and finishing of cloth and yarn, is for the Blue Nile Spinning and Weaving Co. Ltd. at Wad Medani, 120 miles south of Khartoum. Design was in collaboration with **Mather and Platt**, the suppliers of the finishing machinery and allied technology.

Miscellaneous

Orders valued at more than £500,000 for the supply of UK-manufactured perfumes to the Sudan has been secured by the Walthamstow-based **Bush Boake Allen** perfumery sector of Albright and Wilson. The perfumes will be packaged by Sudanese franchise operators.

Clapham's Landscapes Ltd., Foden Lane, Woodford, Stockport, has won a contract worth more than £1 million for planting a 1,000-acre forest in a desert area of Abu Dhabi which has had no rainfall for four years. Clapham's are installing all the complex irrigation system and fencing which will be required for the 80,000 seedling trees.

Parliament

Monday 9 February

Shoppers advice services

Mr. Paul Dean (North Somerset) asked how many aid centres there are offering a shoppers advice service; how many are sponsored by the Government, government agencies, and local authorities; and what is the cost to public funds.

Mr. Williams answered: 'According to the latest information available to me there are at present 74 local authority funded consumer advice centres which offer a comprehensive advice service to shoppers.

'Because some of the specialist staff have other responsibilities in addition to their work in the centres it is impossible to identify precisely the cost of such centres within the total local authority consumer advice service expenditure, estimated to be £1.9 million in England and Wales in 1975/76. This expenditure attracts Rate Support Grant, currently at a rate of 66½ per cent.'

Metrication of pre-packed foods

Mr. Giles Shaw (Pudsey) wanted to know the date when it would be legal for food manufacturers to introduce packing to average fill.

'Introduction of the average system will require legislation', said Mr. Williams. 'The timing of this legislation will depend largely on the recommendations of the Working Party on Metrological Control Systems.'

'We expect to receive the recommendations of the Working Party on Metrological Control Systems in the summer of this year,' said Mr. Williams in reply to another question.

Mr. Shaw also asked if the Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer protection is satisfied with UK progress towards the introduction of metric units for pre-packaged food.

Mr. Williams answered: 'Progress on introducing metric quantities for prepacked food is satisfactory bearing in mind that we must consult all affected interests in the UK before amending legislation and keep in step with our partners in the EEC on questions of standardisation.'

Electric blankets

Mr. Michael Shersby (Hillingdon, Uxbridge) asked how many fatal accidents involved faulty electric blankets in each of the last five years.

Mr. Williams gave the following total numbers of fatal accidents in England and Wales arising from electric blankets of which the DPCP is aware:

	No. of fatal accidents	No. of deaths
1971	16	18
1972	28	29
1973	20	22
1974	31	32
1975	not available	

'The number of accidents involving faulty blankets is not known; but most appear to have been caused by misuse and carelessness,' said Mr. Williams.

Food subsidies

Mr. W. W. Hamilton (Central Fife) asked for the total sum committed this year to food subsidies; what is this sum in 1974 prices: and what effect the subsidies are having on the food index and on the retail price index.

Mr. Maclennan answered: 'The estimated cost of food subsidies in the current financial year is £575 million, equal to about £480 million at 1974 prices. In January but for the food subsidies the food index and the all-items Retail Price Index would have been respectively about 4 per cent and about 1 per cent higher than they were.'

Mr. Hamilton also asked for an estimate of the reduction in the cost of living as a result of the food subsidy programme for: (i) a single pensioner household, (ii) a married pensioner household, (iii) a married couple with two children and (iv) a married couple with four children.

Mr. Maclennan said that on the basis of National Food Survey results for the third quarter of 1975, the estimated average benefit of food subsidies is:

	Pence per week
Households containing:	
Single pensioner	24
Pensioner couple	44
2 adults and 2 children	68
2 adults and 4 or more children	101

These benefits represent a saving of about 5 pence in the £ on household food purchases.

Mr. Hamilton then asked for the complete list of foods being subsidised; indicating the maximum subsidy paid on each unit subsidised and (b) the current subsidy on each unit.

Mr. Maclennan gave the information as follows:

	Unit value of food subsidies at retail level	
	Maximum (pence)	Present (pence)
Milk, per pint	2½	2
Bread, per large loaf	3	2
Bread, per small loaf	2	1
Butter, per lb	11(1)	11(1)
Cheese, per lb	12	10
Household flour, per 3lb bag	3	3
Tea, per lb	8	8

(1) Includes a subsidy equivalent to 2p per pound received from FEOGA (EEC).

Mr. Hamilton asked for a comparison of the effect the food subsidy programme has had on the rise in prices on those goods which are subsidised with the general rise in prices of non-subsidised goods.

Mr. Maclennan said: 'It is estimated that between the start of the food subsidy programme in March 1974 and December 1975, the prices of subsidised foods had risen by 37 per cent on average and the prices of non-subsidised foods by 44 per cent. Over the same period, it is estimated that the prices of subsidised foods would have risen by an average of about 56 per cent if subsidies had not been introduced.'

Cost of Consumer protection bodies

Mr. John Loveridge (Havering, Upminster) asked for the cost in the current year of the Office of Fair Trading; and the number of staff.

Ministers at the Department of Industry

Secretary of State for Industry: Eric Varley
Ministers of State: Gregor MacKenzie
Gerald Kaufman
Parliamentary Under-Secretaries of State: Lord Melchett
Neil Carmichael

Ministers at the Department of Trade

Secretary of State for Trade: Peter Shore
Parliamentary Under-Secretaries of State: Eric Deakins
Stanley Clinton Davis

Ministers at the Department of Prices and Consumer Protection

Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection: Shirley Williams
Minister of State: Alan Williams
Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State: Robert Maclennan

'The Office of Fair Trading was created in 1973 by the previous administration,' said Mr. Williams. 'The Supply Estimates for 1975-76, as revised by the Supplementary Estimates dated 8 December 1975, provide for a net expenditure of £1,372,000 in the current financial year. I understand that the number of staff in post on 1 October 1975 was 233.'

Mr. Loveridge asked for an itemisation of the amounts of public money being given to all the nationalised industries' consumer bodies in the current year.

Mr. Williams answered that the provision in the Supply Estimates for the current financial year (Class, IV, 17, F1 and 18, A5) in respect of the nationalised industry consumer councils was as follows:

	£
Scottish Electricity Consultative Councils	40,000
Electricity Consultative Councils in England and Wales	390,000
Gas Consumers' Councils	433,000
Post Office Users' Councils	122,000
Transport Users' Consultative Committees	150,000
Domestic Coal Consumers' Council	14,000

Mr. Loveridge asked what was the total cost in the current year of the Consumer Protection Advisory Council; and the number of staff.

'The staff of the Consumer Protection Advisory Committee which was created by the previous administration in 1973 consists of four officers of my Department, one part-time, who also have other responsibilities,' said Mr. Williams. 'The cost of their work for the Committee cannot be separately identified. Members of the Committee are entitled to travelling and other expenses which have so far amounted to about £1,300 in the 1975/76 financial year.'

Building societies

Mr. Robin Maxwell-Hyslop (Tiverton) asked the Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection: 'Whether she will refer to both the Monopolies Commission and the Director General of Fair Trading the practice whereby some building societies, including the Abbey National Building Society, make the grant of a mortgage contingent upon property on which the mortgage is secured being insured with a nominated insurance company; and whether she will have examined whether this practice is not both in restraint of trade in restricting competition between insurance companies, and contrary to public policy?'

Mr. Williams said: 'The Director General of Fair Trading recently reached agreement with the Building Societies Association for new borrowers to be given a choice of insurance company and he is currently in negotiation with the Association about improvements to the agreement.'

Import controls

Questions about the imposition of import controls were asked by Mr. Ioan Evans (Aberdare), Mr. Dennis Canavan (West Stirlingshire), and Mr. Nicholas Ridley (Cirencester and Tewkesbury).

'My Rt. Hon. Friend the Chancellor of the Exchequer explained the Government's policy on import controls in the House on 17 December,' said Mr. Shore. 'As regards exports, the Government and the British Overseas Trade Board will continue to give their full support to the efforts of British exporters.'

Dumping

Mr. John Cope (South Gloucestershire) asked if the Secretary of State for Trade would consider introducing legislation to prevent dumping on the lines of the Australian Customs Tariff (Anti-Dumping) Act 1975.

Mr. Deakins said: 'I am satisfied that the existing UK legislation is adequate to deal with injury to British industry by dumped or subsidised imports. I am always willing, however, to consider constructive suggestions for ways in which the implementation of the Act might be improved. The Australian Act is intended to satisfy the requirements of the GATT Anti-Dumping Code as is our own Act.'

Export of cars

Mr. Ivan Luard (Oxford) asked the Secretary of State for Trade what representations he is making to the Japanese Government about administrative practices impeding the export of British cars to Japan.

Mr. Shore answered: 'Both domestically produced and imported cars are required to undergo tests in Japan to see if they meet the stringent Japanese emission and safety standards. During my visit to Tokyo last year I discussed testing arrangements for British cars with Japanese Ministers. Detailed technical talks on testing and safety and emission standards between UK and Japanese officials are continuing.'

Footwear

Mr. John Garrett (Norwich South) asked if the measures taken to protect British footwear manufacturers from foreign competition were satisfactory.

Mr. Deakins replied: 'We have asked Poland, Czechoslovakia and Romania to continue throughout 1976 the restrictions which they imposed on their 1975 exports to us of men's leather footwear, excluding sandals, and to extend a similar voluntary restraint to women's and children's leather footwear also. Discussions with the countries concerned are continuing and I hope will shortly be concluded.'

Mr. Emlyn Hooson (Montgomery) asked for information on the total value of imports of leather goods during the past three successive years; and the total value of exports of British leather goods during the same period.

Mr. Deakins said: 'Imports of saddlery, travel and fancy goods in 1973, 1974 and 1975 were valued at £16, 20 and 26 million cif, respectively, and exports £9, 11 and 13 million fob.'

Textiles

Mr. Nicholas Winterton (Macclesfield) asked what further steps were proposed to protect the textile industry from imports deriving from low-cost developing countries.

Mr. Shore answered: 'Restrictions have already been introduced on potentially disruptive imports from a number of significant low-cost developing countries, including Hong Kong, South Korea and Taiwan. Additional restrictions will be introduced as further voluntary restraint agreements are negotiated under the GATT Multi-Fibre Arrangement. If necessary, we shall also seek emergency restrictions where they can be justified.'

Mr. Winterton wanted to know the current level of imports of yarn from Spain and Portugal, and whether, in the light of the present state of the textile industry, steps would be taken to negotiate a lower limit on the import of yarn from these countries.

Mr. Shore said that in 1975 imports of yarn (not put up for retail sale) from Spain and Portugal were:

	(Tonnes)	
	Spain	Portugal
BN 50.05 : Cotton yarn	2,834	7,744
BN 51.01 : Man-made fibre yarn (continuous)	101	152
BN 56.05 : Man-made fibre yarn (discontinuous or waste)	186	532
BN 53.06 and BN 53.07 : Woollen and worsted yarn of sheeps and lambs' wool	Nil	Nil

Mr. Shore continued: 'On 18 December 1975 restrictions were imposed on imports of cotton yarn from Spain and Portugal; quotas for the period ending 30 June 1976 were set at 1,413 tonnes and 2,540 tonnes, respectively. There is no evidence to suggest that imports of other types of yarn from Spain and Portugal are growing at a rate which would justify restrictions.'

Mr. Max Madden (Sowerby) inquired about negotiations with Eastern European countries on the restriction of woollen imports into the UK.

'Discussions are continuing with the East European countries concerned about the level of their exports to this country of woollen suits,' said Mr. Deakins.

Imports of cars

Mr. Neil Marten (Banbury) asked for a statement on the level of imports of cars from the EEC.

Mr. Shore said that in 1975, 278,000 cars were imported from the EEC, at a value of £337 million.

Trade with Hong Kong

Mr. Frank Hooley (Sheffield, Heeley) asked what was the surplus or deficit on the balance of trade between the UK and Hong Kong in 1973, 1974 and 1975.

Mr. Deakins told him that the crude trade deficit with Hong Kong was £136 million in 1973, £134 million in 1974 and £150 million in 1975.

Imports from Taiwan

Mr. Peter Horden (Horsham) asked if the Secretary of State for Trade would permit the issue of licences for all imports from Taiwan, affected by the recent restrictions, which were covered by irrevocable letters of credit issued before the restrictions were announced.

'No Sir,' said Mr. Deakins. 'Notices to Importers 1522 and 1534 published in *Trade and Industry* of 21 November 1975 and 16 January 1976, respectively, have already made it clear that licences will not be issued where 1976 quota levels have been exhausted.'

Export credits

Mr. Michael Morris (Northampton South) asked if action is being taken to limit export credits following the Rambouillet Summit.

Mr. Shore answered: 'Negotiations to achieve greater control over international credit competition were given fresh impetus by the decision of Heads of Government at Rambouillet that efforts should be intensified to bring them to a prompt conclusion. Discussions are continuing and I hope that they will soon be successfully concluded.'

Parliament continued

ECGD

Mr. Geoffrey Pattie (Chertsey and Walton) asked if the Secretary of State for Trade is satisfied with the current working of ECGD procedures.

'Yes, Sir,' said Mr. Deakins. 'Naturally we keep our procedures under review in the light of changing circumstances.'

Trade with Israel

Mr. Eric Moonman (Basildon) asked for the most recent trade figures between the UK and Israel.

Mr. Shore replied that in 1975 imports were valued at £91 million cif and exports £237 million fob.

Tourism

'Is the Secretary of State for Trade satisfied' asked Mr. Robert Hicks (Bodmin) 'with the present operation of Section 4 of the Development of Tourism Act 1968 and the additional condition of restricting grants for approved tourist projects to those within development areas?'

Mr. Deakins answered: 'Within present financial constraints, I am satisfied that the greatest benefits under the scheme can be obtained by concentrating resources on the Development Areas.'

Insurance companies

Mr. Robin Maxwell-Hyslop (Tiverton) asked if an inquiry would be ordered into the affairs of the Nation Life Insurance Co. to ascertain whether any breaches of the law occurred in the conduct of its affairs in the last five years.

Mr. Clinton Davis replied: 'No, Sir. Nation Life Insurance Co. Ltd. is in compulsory liquidation by Order of the High Court and accordingly all necessary inquiries are being made in the course of his Statutory duties by the Official Receiver, who is answerable to the Court.'

Mr. Hugh Dykes (Harrow East) asked when the UK policyholders of Fidelity Life Assurance Ltd. would receive their claims.

Mr. Clinton Davis replied: 'The Court on 6 February 1976 gave leave to the Official Receiver as provisional liquidator of the company to make payments on account to certain policyholders against an indemnity from the Policyholders Protection Board. He hopes within a few days to send a form of undertaking for signature and return by those policyholders, mainly annuitants and claimants under life policies, and he will then, subject to the obtaining of a waiver from the parent company and agreeing the tax claim, be in a position to make payment.'

Bankruptcies

Mr. David Mitchell (Basingstoke) asked: 'Is the Secretary of State for Trade aware of the high level of bankruptcies and liquidations in recent months; and will he take steps to alleviate the situation?'

Mr. Clinton Davis answered: 'I am well aware of the high level of bankruptcies and insolvencies which reflects the recession of the last year.

'The Government has made clear its commitment to an expanding and profitable manufacturing sector and to this end has taken steps to ensure that a greater share of our national resources are made available for productive investment.'

British Agricultural Export Council

Mr. Francis Pym (Cambridgeshire) asked who appoints the director general of the British Agricultural Export Council; what is the council's total budget; how many people are employed by it; what proportion of the council's budget is taken up in salaries; how many applicants there were for the post of director general; in what papers and on what dates was the post advertised and for a list of the organisations contributing to the council.

Mr. Shore replied: 'The British Agricultural Export Council is an independent association of subscription-paying members representing virtually the whole spectrum of the agricultural and allied industries. Its remit is to promote agricultural exports, a sector of great current opportunity. It has required grants in aid from the Government since 1968 to supplement its income. The size of my Department's grant, which is now determined on the advice of the British Overseas Trade Board, has been increased from £20,000 in 1974/75 to £25,000 in 1975/76 and is expected to go up to £35,000 in 1976/77. This increase takes into account the conclusion of the BOTB and the Council that the Council at this moment needs a director general well versed in the agricultural industry and government administration who can strengthen its organisation to carry an increasing load and effectively represent the council at top official level both nationally and internationally. For its part the council has already increased its income from members from £20,575 in 1974/75 to about £35,000 in 1975/76.

'The director general is appointed by the Finance and General Purposes Committee of the Council.

'For 1974/75 the Council's total expenditure was just over £40,000. For 1975/76 it is estimated it will probably be about £60,000.

'Including the director general, the staff of the council comprises four executives and four supporting secretarial/clerical staff. The chairman receives no salary.

'For 1975-76 the proportion of the expenditure taken up by staff costs will be about 46 per cent.

'As the future structure and financing of the BAEC is under consideration by the Government the BAEC did not feel itself in a position to offer a permanent appointment. I understand that in these circumstances no post was advertised and therefore no applications were received by the BAEC.

'In addition to the BOTB subvention the Council in December 1975 was in receipt of subscriptions from 24 full members and 163 associate members. I am sending a comprehensive list to the Hon. Member.'

Scottish Council trade mission

Mr. Douglas Crawford (Perth and East Perthshire) asked what assistance is being given by the Department of Trade to the forthcoming trade mission being sent by the Scottish Council (Development and Industry) to the USA to coincide with the 200th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence.

Mr. Deakins replied: 'The Scottish Council (Development and Industry) has been informed that members of a mission under its sponsorship visiting the USA in September/October this year will be eligible for financial assistance at the appropriate rate under the Outward Mission Scheme administered by the British Overseas Trade Board.'

Department of Trade appointments

Mr. Philip Holland (Carlton) asked for a list of those bodies other than committees, but including statutory corporations, to which members other than civil servants are appointed by the Secretary of State for Trade, stating the number of members serving on each body.

Mr. Shore gave the following list which excludes various advisory committees and similar bodies:

	No. of members
Air Travel Reserve Fund Agency	7
British Airports Authority	9
British Airways Board	11
British Film Fund Agency	3
British Overseas Trade Board	14
British Tourist Authority	6
Cinematograph Films Council	22
Civil Aviation Authority	12
English Tourist Board	7
National Film Finance Corporation	5
Performing Right Tribunal	5
Policyholders Protection Board	5
Simplification of Internation Trade Procedures Board	14

Subsidised freight rates

Questions were asked by Mrs. Jill Knight (Birmingham, Edgbaston), Mr. Michael Shersby (Hillingdon, Uxbridge), Mr. Tim Renton (Mid-Sussex), Mr. Peter Morrison (City of Chester) on 'subsidised freight slashing by Eastern Bloc shipping lines' and whether this constituted dumping.

Mr. Clinton Davis replied: 'We have received representations which are being studied urgently and we are consulting with interested parties both at home and abroad. In any event dumping, as defined by our legislation, applies only to goods and not to services.'

Mid-air collision

Mr. Norman Tebbit (Waltham Forest, Chingford) asked when the inquiry into the mid-air collision involving a civil Piper Aztec aircraft on 7 January off the east coast of England would be completed.

'While it is impossible to forecast what problems the Inspector's Investigation will encounter in the course of the inquiry,' said Mr. Clinton Davis. 'I am advised that the Chief Inspector of Accidents expects to be able to submit the report on the accident before the end of summer this year.'

Aircraft noise

Mr. Barney Hayhoe (Hounslow, Brentford and Isleworth) asked what proportion of take offs and how many take offs from Heathrow during the latest three months for which figures are available exceeded the noise limits laid down; and which aircraft and airline were the worst offenders.

Mr. Clinton Davis said that in the last three months of 1975, there were 28,662 jet take-offs from Heathrow of which 945 (3.29 per cent) exceeded the permitted noise levels. The airlines and types of aircraft which infringed on the greatest number of occasions are shown in the following table:

Airline	Number of infringements	Percentage of total infringements
INFRINGEMENTS BY OPERATORS		
British Airways (European Division)	433	46
British Airways (Overseas Division)	147	16
Trans World Airlines	126	13
Pan American World Airlines	50	5
All other airlines	189	20
INFRINGEMENTS BY AIRCRAFT TYPE		
Type of Aircraft		
Trident	440	47
Boeing 707	267	28
Super VC10	78	8
Boeing 747	66	7
All other aircraft	94	10

'As might be expected the airlines and aircraft which use Heathrow most created the greater number of infringements,' said Mr. Clinton Davis. 'The rate of infringement was, however, higher than the average over the past few years and I have already set in hand a study to examine the reasons for this and to consider how the rate might be reduced.'

M Notice procedure

Mr. Kevin McNamara (Kingston upon Hull Central) asked if the Departmental inquiry into the M Notice procedure had yet been completed; and whether wider statutory powers would be taken to make such advisory notices mandatory on UK merchant shipping.

Mr. Clinton Davis replied: 'My Department completed its internal investigation into M Notice procedures last summer and consultation with both sides of industry began in September.

'It is intended to make more of those matters covered by our M Notices mandatory once the necessary legislative powers are available.'

Concorde

Mr. Hugh Dykes (Harrow East) asked for the latest assessment of Concorde's prospects in terms of orders from national consumers other than British Airways and Air France, following the recent commencement of commercial flights.

Mr. Kaufman answered: 'A number of airlines have expressed an interest in Concorde and good progress has been made with negotiations for the sale of two Concordes to Iranair. With Concorde now in airline service with British Airways and Air France and the US Secretary of State for Transportation having announced his decision on these airlines' applications for flying rights to New York and Washington, potential customers will be better able to assess the opportunities offered by purchasing and operating Concorde themselves.'

Ferrous Foundry Scheme

Mr. Moore (Croydon Central) asked for a list showing the remuneration of the members of the External Advisory Committee set up to advise on the Ferrous Foundry Scheme; and if it is a condition of membership that they should not be employed by companies in receipt of funds under the scheme.

'Service on the Committee is unpaid,' said Mr. MacKenzie. 'A member of the committee who is in any way directly or indirectly interested in an application for assistance which is under consideration by the committee must declare the nature of his interest and take no part in the deliberations of the committee with respect to that application.'

Exports of tobacco and tobacco products

Mr. Arnold Shaw (Ilford South) asked what special factors caused the rise in exports of tobacco and tobacco products from £68,900,000 in 1974 to £106,345,000 in 1975.

Mr. Carmichael replied: 'I can only attribute the increase to strong demand for these UK products, and our manufacturers ability to supply it. The increase in volume terms for cigarettes, which formed the major part of our exports, was about 15 per cent.'

Japanese tankers

Mr. John Farr (Harborough) inquired about evidence that Japanese tankers are being offered on world markets at below the cost of construction and contrary to the provisions of GATT.

Mr. Kaufman answered: 'My Department has received information about the very low prices being quoted by Japanese shipyards, but I have no evidence to confirm that particular prices are below construction costs. These problems are being discussed within the EEC and the OECD and are also the subject of discussion between the European Commission and the Japanese Government. If evidence were to be submitted that ships were being dumped in the UK, my Rt. Hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Trade would be prepared to consider action under the Customs Duties (Dumping and Subsidies) Act 1969.'

YKK Fasteners (UK) Ltd.

Mr. John Ovenden (Gravesend) referred to the proposed closure of Optilon Ltd. at Ightam, Kent, and asked if the Secretary of State for Industry is satisfied with the operation of the agreement with YKK Fasteners (UK) Ltd. regarding control of the import of Japanese products; and what further discussions he has held with the company this year.

'Yes, Sir,' said Mr. Carmichael. 'No discussions have been held with YKK Fasteners (UK) Ltd. this year, but the situation is being carefully monitored and will be discussed with the company from time to time as necessary.'

Export promotion

Mr. Kenneth Lewis (Rutland and Stamford) asked what instructions have been given to the National Enterprise Board to give special encouragement to industries specially active in export promotion.

Mr. Kaufman said: 'The provisions of the Industry Act 1975, and of the Guidelines for the NEB (which will be published very soon) together provide a framework for NEB help for exporting industries.'

Industry Act assistance

Mr. Robert Kilroy-Silk (Ormskirk) asked if any private companies have received grants or loans under the Industry Act 1972 or any other authority on the condition or with the qualification that they were once for all; and, if so, how many.

Mr. MacKenzie answered that three companies have received selective financial assistance on a once and for all basis.

The once and for all condition applies only to selective financial assistance.

Mr. Kilroy-Silk asked how many advance factories have been built on Merseyside since 1964; and how many jobs created.

'Eleven factories have been built and these currently employ 1,230 people,' said Mr. MacKenzie.

Mr. Anthony Grant (Harrow Central) asked how much money has been paid or guaranteed since February 1974 to service industries to move to assisted areas; how many firms have received such assistance; and how many new jobs were created as a result.

Mr. MacKenzie said that the following offers of assistance were made between 1 March 1974 and 31 December 1975 under Section 7 of the Industry Act 1972 in respect of service industry projects moving to the assisted areas. Information on payments since 1 March 1974 is not readily available. No guarantees have been offered in respect of service industry projects:

Area	Number of projects	Value of assistance offered	Estimated new jobs in the assisted areas
		£'000	
Scotland	12	600	598
Wales	12	300	410
North	15	600	622
North West	20	2,400	2,168
Yorks/ Humberside	14	1,000	1,356
E. Midlands	1	10	42
Total	74	4,910	5,196

Tuesday, 10 February

Small firms

Mr. Michael Ward (Peterborough) asked the Secretary of State for Industry: 'If he will make a statement on the nature of his Department's responsibility for the small firms sector?'

Mr. MacKenzie answered: 'My Noble Friend, the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Industry, Lord Melchett, has assumed special responsibility for the small firms sector. I will, however, continue to retain my interest in the sector, and my general oversight of matters affecting small businesses. These arrangements will increase the ministerial attention which can be given to the needs of small firms.'

British Leyland

Mr. Michael McNair-Wilson (Newbury) asked whether the financial assistance given to British Leyland by HM Government was restricted purely to assistance for their car-making operations; and, if not, for what other purposes it was allocated.

Mr. Kaufman said: 'The Ryder team was asked to investigate the position of British Leyland as a whole. Their assessment of the capital expenditure requirements of each division of the business is shown in Table 141 of the team's report, and their recommendations for a programme of financial support took all these requirements into account.'

Chrysler

Mr. Max Madden (Sowerby) asked for information about the transfer of machinery and equipment from Chrysler, Maidstone, to other Chrysler plants; the age of this machinery and equipment; the total cost of this machinery; and what payment is to be made to Chrysler, Maidstone.

Mr. Kaufman said: 'I understand that the machinery and equipment to be transferred from Maidstone is mostly between five and 25 years old. It is now and will continue to be the property of Chrysler (UK) Ltd. and no payment is involved. The question, therefore, of the cost of the machinery and of a payment to be made does not arise.'

Professional services

Sir Peter Rawlinson (Epsom and Ewell) asked for details of the fees paid by the Department of Industry in the year ended 31 March 1975 to persons not full-time civil servants but following the professions of: chartered architects, chartered and quantity surveyors, medical consultants, medical general practitioners, dentists, pharmacists, civil engineers, mechanical and electrical engineers, estate agents and valuers, solicitors, and barristers, respectively.

Mr. Kaufman listed the total amounts (exclusive of VAT) paid in the year in the specified categories as follows:

	£
Chartered architects	5,690
Chartered and quantity surveyors	nil
Medical consultants	nil
Medical general practitioners	150
Dentists	421
Pharmacists	nil
Civil engineers	nil
Mechanical and electrical engineers	nil
Estate agents and valuers	nil
Solicitors	148
Barristers	175

'In addition payments totalling £13,260 have been made for management consultancy work to consultants qualified as civil and mechanical engineers,' said Mr. Kaufman.

Companies' rate of return on capital employed

Mr. David Howell (Guildford) asked for publication of the information needed to up-date Tables 1 and 2 of the article 'Estimating companies' rate of return on capital employed' of November 1974 Economic Trends*; including the various measures of profitability in these tables as percentage shares of national income at factor cost.*

Mr. Clinton Davis answered: 'Estimates of the rate of return are published only for calendar years. The latest available estimate of the rate of return as defined for industrial and commercial companies relates to 1974 and was 4 per cent. For the large listed companies in manufacturing industry the latest available estimate relates to 1973 and was 7 per cent. These estimates were published in *Trade and Industry* on 24 October 1975.'

Dumping of East German suits

Mr. Doug Hoyle (Nelson and Colne) asked what representations have been made about the dumping of £4.80 suits, originally from East Germany, by a Dutch company.

'I have received representations from several Hon. Members and from the industry on this subject,' said Mr. Deakins. 'I am fully aware of the seriousness of the situation and I am looking urgently into the possible ways of dealing with it.'

Surveillance licensing

Mr. J. W. Rooker (Birmingham, Perry Barr) asked what progress has been made with the introduction of surveillance licensing of imports of television tubes and sets as announced on 17 December 1975.

Mr. Shore replied: 'Surveillance licensing of such imports from non-EEC sources was introduced on 17 January. I am advised that this licensing procedure cannot be applied to imports from the community and I am accordingly making alternative arrangements for obtaining the same information.'

Trade with USSR

Mr. Michael Shersby (Hillingdon, Uxbridge) asked for details of any substantial orders placed by the USSR with British industry since the address to the British-Soviet Chamber of Commerce by Secretary of State for Trade.

'One major order for steel has been placed since I spoke to the Chamber on 16 January,' said Mr. Deakins. 'I hope the Soviet authorities will have noticed my remarks on that occasion and will quickly conclude a number of major contracts currently under negotiation.'

London and County Securities Group

Mr. John Stonehouse (Walsall North) asked: 'On what precise date police were given details of the inspector's report and extracts from the transcript of evidence in connection with the London and County Securities Group Ltd. investigations; on what precise date the individuals concerned were advised of such action; and on what date their permission was received for the release of such information and whether solicitors acting for individuals named in the London and County Securities Group Ltd. report were given the details of evidence at the same time as this was supplied to the police or at any time?'

Mr. Clinton Davis answered: 'On 20 September 1974 the police were advised of the information submitted by the Inspectors in pursuance of Section 41 of the Companies Act, 1967, and were given copies of relevant transcripts of evidence.

'As I informed the Hon. Member on 3 February 1976, information obtained as a result of inquiries under the Companies Acts, 1948 and 1967 is only provided in accordance with the provisions of those Acts. The individuals concerned were not notified since there is no requirement to notify individuals or their solicitors or to seek their consent.'

Concorde

Mr. Bob Cryer (Keighley) asked: 'What is the amount of money provided to British Airways to facilitate the purchase of Concorde.

Mr. Shore replied: 'Money to meet the net capital requirements of its approved investment programme has been progressively provided to British Airways within the framework described to the House on 25 May 1972. Specifically, BA estimate that they will have made payments in respect of Concorde aircraft and associated support items amounting to £65 million by the end of February 1976 when the second of the five Concordes they have ordered will have been delivered.'

Mr. Cryer also asked for the research and development cost of Concorde.

Mr. Kaufman replied: 'The latest estimate of the manufacturers' development costs in Britain and France, as given to Parliament by my Rt. Hon. Friend the then Secretary of State on 25 March 1975, is £1,096 million, calculated at January 1975 economic conditions. It is expected that approximately 50 per cent will be held by HMG.'

Mr. Cryer asked what research had been initiated into the effects on the atmosphere of supersonic flights.

Mr. Kaufman said: 'In 1972 a three year programme of investigations of the stratosphere was initiated with the financial support of my department to assess the impact of stratospheric flight on the composition of the stratosphere and on the climate on the ground. The work was carried out by the Meteorological Office and investigations were co-ordinated by a specially instituted Committee known as the Committee on Meteorological Effects of Stratospheric Aircraft (COMESA). The Committee has recently completed its work and its Final Report will be published shortly.

'The Report concludes that the effects of the Concorde aircraft currently in production on the atmospheric ozone layer and also on the climate will be so small that they will be quite undetectable. This conclusion has been confirmed by the World Meteorological Organisation.

'I shall arrange for a copy to be placed in the Library.'

A list of the technological benefits derived from the research and development of Concorde was asked for by Mr. Cryer.

Mr. Kaufman said: 'The development and production of Concorde has required much original research into the hitherto unexplored problems associated with supersonic flight of large aircraft. The research has yielded technologically important results in the use of computers in design and production applications, the design and use of machine tools, automatic welding techniques, electrical and electronic display techniques, high performance lubricants, and in the technology of paints, glass, plastics and non-ferrous metals, particularly improved strength alloys.'

Mr. Cryer asked how the high fuel consumption of Concorde as against subsonic jets was regarded in the light of the 'Save It' campaign.

'I consider the fuel consumption of Concorde is in no way excessive when viewed in the light of its overall performance and the speed advantages which it offers,' replied Mr. Kaufman. 'Concorde consumes no more fuel per passenger-mile than many executive jets in common use; and its fuel consumption will be insignificant in overall terms.'

Mr. John Moore (Croydon Central) asked the Secretary of State for Trade: 'To the extent that concession grants to offset noise disturbance were provided in the Heathrow area, based on the existing noise limits, and as he has exempted Concorde from these noise limits, if he will consider allowing compensation based upon a more extensive noise print in the area and noise beyond the previous limits?'

Mr. Clinton Davis answered: 'The noise insulation grants scheme at Heathrow is based on total noise disturbance as measured by the Noise and Number Index (NNI) contours. At least initially there will be so few Concorde movements at Heathrow that they are unlikely to make any significant difference to the

NNI contours. I am not therefore considering any further revision of the grants scheme but I shall continue to watch the position.'

Food prices

Mrs. Sally Oppenheim (Gloucester) asked for figures showing the year on year increase in the Food Prices Index of all food in each of the last six months.

Mr. Maclennan gave information as follows:

1975	Food Index – percentage changes on a year earlier
July	29.2
August	28.5
September	27.7
October	25.4
November	25.0
December	26.0

Wednesday, 11 February

Industrial development

Mr. Hal Miller (Bromsgrove and Redditch) asked the Secretary of State for Industry, how many representations have been received for removing the requirement for industrial development certificates in the West Midlands; and if he would now suspend this requirement at least on a temporary basis in view of the high unemployment in the area.

Mr. MacKenzie answered: 'As unemployment has risen in recent months, I have received an increasing number of representations about IDCs. IDC applications are decided with full regard to the circumstances and plans of individual firms and the needs and resources of the locations concerned, particularly the current and expected labour situation. They continue to have an important part to play in the Government's regional policy and a temporary suspension of the control in response to the present unemployment situation in the non-assisted areas would not be justified.'

Skelmersdale

Mr. Michael McGuire (Ince) asked if special assistance would be given to the Skelmersdale Development Corporation to help them find an employer to take over the Thorn colour tube factory with a view to employing approximately the same number of men as were previously employed making television tubes.

'Skelmersdale is already entitled to the high level of assistance to industry available in places within Special Development Areas,' said Mr. MacKenzie. 'Any applications submitted in respect of projects on Skelmersdale for assistance under Section 7 of the Industry Act 1972 will be considered most sympathetically.'

Size markings for children's clothes

Mr. Nigel Spearing (Newham South) asked what plans the Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection has for legislation, regulations, or advice concerning a comprehensive system of size markings for children's clothes.

Mr. Williams said: 'Recommendations for size marking are dealt with in British Standard 3728 while BSI publication PD 6473 gives more recent general information on the marking of garments and also includes sizing of boys' and youths' wear. There are no plans to introduce legislation or regulations concerning size markings for children's clothes.'

Pattern approval by Weights and Measures Service

Mr. Peter Hordern (Horsham and Crawley) asked what measures would be taken to ensure that applications to the Weights and Measures Service for pattern approval for new inventions and processes receive prompt attention.

'Steps have already been taken to reduce current delays in dealing with applications for pattern approval,' replied Mr. Williams. 'As indicated in paragraph 34 of the Report to Parliament on Weights and Measures, published in September 1975, a substantial backlog of applications has built up.

'The steps taken include the reorganisation of the Weights and Measures Service and a considerably increased allocation of staff resources to examination work. Every effort is being made to speed up the work and to reduce the backlog so as to ensure that, as soon as possible, all new applications are dealt with in a reasonable time.'

New Zealand import deposit scheme

Mr. Ronald Atkins (Preston North) asked the Secretary of State for Trade: 'If he is aware that from 2 February 1976 New Zealand importers of many British exports will have to pay import deposits of one-third of the value of their proposed imports; and what measures he proposes to take in retaliation?'

'Yes,' said Mr. Deakins. 'Details of the New Zealand import deposit scheme have been published by my Department in the Export Intelligence Service and in the 6 February edition of the weekly publication *Trade and Industry*. The scheme which, it has been announced, will last for one year is limited in coverage and seems likely to apply to about 9 per cent of our exports to New Zealand. The scheme will be examined in the OECD and the GATT. I have expressed my concern to the New Zealand Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Overseas Trade.'

Liners conferences

Mr. Spearing asked what has been the response of the United Kingdom to the UNCTAD Draft Convention on Liners Conferences; and for a statement on any associated obligation of the Treaty of Rome; and the issues would be discussed at the forthcoming Nairobi conference.

Mr. Deakins replied: 'HMG voted against the UN Liner Code Convention in 1974. As far as I am aware, it will not be discussed at the forthcoming UNCTAD Conference in Nairobi. Questions of compatibility between the Convention and the Treaty of Rome are under consideration in the Community institutions.'

Tin buffer stocks

Dr. Jeremy Bray (Motherwell and Wishaw) asked if the Government's decision to contribute as a consumer to the tin buffer stock indicate a commitment in principle to dual financing by producers and consumers of buffer stocks in general.

Mr. Deakins said: 'HM Government are of the view that buffer stocks may be an appropriate mechanism in certain individual commodity agreements. Where such mechanism is appropriate its financing can be decided only by detailed negotiations in each individual case.'

Commodities from producer-developing countries

Dr. Bray asked on which commodities the Government is currently negotiating with producer-developing countries with a view to agreements on price and supply.

Mr. Deakins answered: 'Negotiations for the renewal of international agreements covering tin, cocoa and coffee have recently been successfully concluded. A UK mission visited all the major tea-producing countries of the Commonwealth at the end of last year to discuss inter alia the feasibility of an international tea agreement. These discussions will be renewed in London next month.

'The scope for international agreements on other commodities is kept under continuing international review. For example, the UK as a member of the EEC, is playing its part in the International Wheat Council, in preparations for discussion of a new International Wheat Agreement.'

Textiles from developing countries

Dr. Bray asked for the tariff, quota and other measures restricting imports of textiles from developing countries.

'There are no tariff measures restricting imports of textiles from developing countries, although there are a wide range of mostly duty free tariff preferences for such goods,' said Mr. Deakins. 'Details of the quantitative restrictions on imports of textiles are given in Notices to Importers which are published in *Trade and Industry*. In broad terms we restrict imports of cotton yarn, woven cotton goods, and woven jute cloth from developing countries other than those benefiting under the EEC/ACP Convention of Lomé and under the arrangements for trade with the EEC's Overseas Countries and Territories. In the case of some countries with whom the EEC have negotiated Agreements under the GATT Multi-Fibre Arrangement, or on which controls have been imposed, the restrictions also cover knitted cotton as well as woollen and man-made fibre textiles.'

Mr. Winterton asked for information on the extent and nature of concealed governmental assistance to textile exports from low cost textile producing countries.

Mr. Deakins answered: 'Complaints are made to my department from time to time of alleged export subsidies granted by governments in textile-producing countries. I am ready to examine any allegations meriting investigation under the Customs Duties (Dumping and Subsidies) Act 1969.'

Men's suits from East Germany

Mr. Ted Fletcher (Darlington) asked the Secretary of State for Trade: 'What evidence he has that men's suits, manufactured in East Germany, are being imported into the UK at a cost of £4.80 each; whether he regards this as dumping; and what action he proposes to take?'

Mr. Deakins replied: 'While such suits have been offered to at least one UK company I have no evidence of any imports so far. The price quoted certainly suggests a margin of dumping but the facts of the case are not yet entirely clear. I am having the whole matter investigated as a matter of urgency in order to see what action would be appropriate.'

Parliament continued

Credit facilities

Mr. Frank R. White (Bury and Radcliffe) asked if retaliatory action would be taken against those countries offering credit facilities that breach the general agreement on international credit facility levels.

Mr. Deakins replied: 'It remains Government policy to participate in international negotiations to achieve greater control over export credit competition. It is also established policy that ECGD will consider matching officially supported credit facilities offered by our overseas competitors. This includes any breaches of international agreements or understandings. There are well established systems of international prior consultation and exchange of information which generally work well. Where appropriate we take up any breach of these arrangements very strongly.'

Film industry

Mr. Michael Morris (Northampton South) asked how many civil servants are employed in the Department of Trade to cover the film industry.

'The permanent full-time complement is 12 officers,' said Mr. Deakins.

Several questions relating to the British Film Fund and on the film industry in general were asked by Mr. Eric Moonman (Basildon).

Mr. Deakins said that these, and many other matters relating to the film industry, were considered by the Working Party on the Future of the Film Industry. 'The recommendations in the Working Party's Report are being urgently considered by the Government, and it is hoped to make a statement as soon as possible,' he added.

Thursday, 12 February

National Enterprise Board

Mr. Kilroy-Silk asked when the first Government shareholding would be transfered to the NEB.

'Within a matter of days,' said Mr. Kaufman.

Mr. Kilroy-Silk asked when the guidelines governing the operation of the NEB would be published. He also asked for a statement on the progress of NEB.

Mr. Kaufman answered that the Secretary of State for Industry hopes to publish the draft Guidelines for the National Enterprise Board shortly.

'The preparatory work undertaken by the NEB since it came into being on 20 November 1975, will enable it to carry out effectively its statutory functions in the months ahead,' he said.

Planning agreements

Mr. Kilroy-Silk asked why no planning agreements have yet been concluded; and when the first was expected to be negotiated.

Mr. Kaufman replied: 'The Department has been pursuing its consultations with both sides of industry, including the CBI and ABCC and the TUC, about the arrangements for Planning Agreements. In addition it is conducting exploratory discussions with a number of companies but these have not reached a stage at which I am in a position to make a statement.'

Mr. Geoff Edge (Aldridge-Brownhills) asked with what sectors of industry, the Secretary of State for Industry is primarily concerned in his efforts to obtain planning agreements.

Mr. Kaufman answered: 'The aim is to introduce planning agreements initially into sectors of particular importance to the economy, beginning with companies in sectors which lie at the heart of our export effort.'

Mr. Edge also asked what topics were discussed during consultations with the CBI and the TUC on the arrangements for planning agreements.

'The discussions provided for exchanges of views about the Government's policy and about the practical aspects of implementing planning agreements,' replied Mr. Kaufman.

Rolls-Royce (1971) Ltd.

Mr. Peter Rost (South East Derbyshire) asked if it is still the intention to transfer the 100 per cent shareholding of Rolls-Royce (1971) Ltd. to the NEB; and whether a transfer had been agreed by the Rolls-Royce management.

'The management of Rolls-Royce (1971) Ltd. is aware that my Rt. Hon. Friend proposes to transfer the Government's shareholding in the Company to the National Enterprise Board,' said Mr. Kaufman.

Mr. Rost asked if the existing Rolls-Royce (1971) Ltd. management would continue to exercise its responsibilities under the guidelines established in 1971 after the company becomes a subsidiary of the NEB; and what would be the function and control of the NEB over the existing directors of Rolls-Royce.

'The guidelines to which the Hon. Member refers govern the relationship between the company and the Department of Industry as shareholder', said Mr. Kaufman. 'The future relationship between the company and the NEB is under discussion.'

Mr. Rost then asked what changes in management would result from the takeover of Rolls-Royce (1971) Ltd. by the NEB; and whether that body would be represented on the board of Rolls-Royce.

'I am not aware that any management changes will take place as a result of the transfer of Rolls-Royce (1971) Ltd. to the NEB', said Mr. Kaufman.

Mr. Rost asked: 'What consultations have taken place with the management and work-force of Rolls-Royce (1971) Ltd. on the proposed transfer of the company to the NEB; and what is the degree of support or opposition?'

Mr. Kaufman answered: 'The Government's proposal to transfer Rolls-Royce (1971) Ltd. to the NEB was announced in the White Paper "The Regeneration of British Industry"—Cmnd. 5710. I have received very few representations about this proposal.'

British Leyland

Mr. John Wells (Maidstone) referred to 'the £1,400 million provided by Parliament for British Leyland', and asked: 'How much has already been expended, and how much more earmarked with Government knowledge for projects completely remote from the manufacture and sale of motor vehicles such as the purchase of companies selling refrigeration equipment?'

Mr. Kaufman replied: 'So far, the provision of £200 million to British Leyland has been authorised (under the British Leyland Act) and made available by way of new equity through a rights issue in October 1975. The acquisition to which the question refers was made before that date.

'Estimated capital expenditure requirements of each division of the business were shown in Table 14.1 of the Ryder Report. In so far as companies within the Special Products Division have been, and may be expected to be profitable, resources for investment will be generated to a great extent from within the division.'

Chrysler

Mrs. Audrey Wise (Coventry South West) referred to the report entitled 'The Workers' Case' drawn up by workers at Chrysler; and asked if consideration has been given to their view that high unemployment in the motor vehicle industry is the result of misdirection of capacity rather than over-capacity.

Mr. Kaufman said: 'My Rt. Hon. Friend received a report entitled "Chrysler's Crisis: The Workers' Answer" dated 8 December 1975, submitted by a joint union delegation of shop stewards and staff representatives. The plans for Chrysler United Kingdom Ltd. provide the opportunity for the production facilities to be used more effectively in the future. There is excess capacity in the United Kingdom and elsewhere for motor car manufacture and the report of the Central Policy Review Staff has demonstrated that motor car assembly capacity in the United Kingdom has not been used as productively as that of certain overseas competitors.'

Selective financial assistance

Mr. Kilroy-Silk asked which three companies have received selective financial assistance on a once and for all basis.

'Synova Motors Ltd. (the Meriden Motorcycle Co-operative); Kirkby Manufacturing and Engineering Ltd. and Scottish News Enterprises Ltd.,' said Mr. MacKenzie.

Assistance to industry

Dr. Jeremy Bray asked about plans to assist industries in Great Britain in developing in new directions in view of the Government's declared policy of helping the demands of developing countries to increase the domestic processing of the commodities they produce.

Mr. Kaufman replied: 'Various forms of assistance are available, notably under the Industry Act 1972, to firms seeking to diversify their production. In the development of the industrial strategy my Rt. Hon. Friend intends that proper account should be taken of likely production trends in other countries, including where appropriate the growth of processing industries in developing countries.'

Aviation and shipbuilding industries

Mr. Paul B. Rose (Manchester, Blackley) asked if the Secretary of State for Industry would site the headquarters of the proposed nationalised aviation and shipbuilding industries in the North West region and transfer the office of the Government Chemist from London to West Cumbria.

Mr. Kaufman replied: 'We are examining carefully, in consultation with the two Organising Committees, possible locations for the headquarters of British Aerospace and British Shipbuilders. It was announced in the

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House in July 1974 that the Laboratory of the Government Chemist would be relocated in West Cumbria.'

Maritime Fruit Carriers

Mr. Teddy Taylor (Glasgow, Cathcart) asked what was the total tonnage of orders held by British shipyards at the most recent available date; and what percentage of this tonnage relates to orders placed by the Maritime Fruit Carriers Co.

Mr. Kaufman said: 'On 31 December 1975 outstanding orders for merchant ships held by UK shipyards amounted to 4.947 million gross tons. 35 per cent of this total related to orders placed by the Maritime Fruit Carriers Co.'

Manufactured goods

Mr. David Howell (Guildford) asked if the Secretary of State for Industry would publish for 1964, 1970, 1974, 1975, or the nearest convenient years, estimates in current prices and in volume terms, of UK production, domestic consumption, imports and exports of manufactured products, if possible, distinguishing between imports competing directly with domestic production and those complementary to it.

Mr. Carmichael gave estimates of UK output, exports, imports and implied demand for manufactured goods in the following table for 1963, 1970 and 1974. Comparable information is not available about competitive and complementary imports nor are estimates yet available for 1975.

UK OUTPUT, EXPORTS, IMPORTS AND IMPLIED DEMAND FOR MANUFACTURED GOODS (a)
£'000 million

	Current prices			
	Output (b)	Exports (c)	Imports (c)	Implied demand (d)
1963	15.5	3.9	3.3	14.9
1970	26.2	7.4	6.6	25.4
1974	43.2	16.1	15.8	42.9
1970 prices				
1963	19.8	4.9	4.3	19.2
1970	26.2	7.4	6.6	25.4
1974	28.2	10.4	9.4	27.2

Notes:
(a) The products of Manufacturing Industry as defined in the Standard Industrial Classification 1968.
(b) Free of duplication (ie excluding sales within Manufacturing Industry).
(c) The exports and imports figures differ from those published in the Overseas Trade Statistics as they have been adjusted to conform with the basis of the input-output statistics (eg by excluding the estimated value of goods imported for re-export).
(d) Output plus imports minus exports. No allowance has been made for changes in stocks.

Thorn factory at Skelmersdale

Mr. Michael Morris (Northampton South) asked if the Secretary of State for Industry had had any discussions with the Japanese Embassy relating to the possibility of a Japanese company taking over the Thorn factory at Skelmersdale.

'No, but our present information is that the Japanese industry is not interested,' said Mr. Kaufman.

Mr. Edge asked for estimates of the type and volume of machine tools required by British industry over the next five years; and if finance would be made available to the machine tool industry on condition that production was organised to meet this estimated demand.

Mr. Carmichael answered: 'I have already made available £20 million for a scheme of assistance to the machine tool industry under Section 8 of the Industry Act 1972 in order to strengthen its ability to meet the needs of the engineering industry and to compete for a share of world markets. A strategy for the industry, taking account of expected demand for different classes of machine tool, is being formulated by the Machine Tools Economic Development Committee with the help of both sides of the industry.'

Airbus

Mrs. Winifred Ewing (Moray and Nairn) asked for an early statement on the cost to HM Government of the UK's rejoining of the European A-300 airbus programme; and over what period the cost would be spread.

'Hawker Siddeley Aviation, who are shortly to be brought into public ownership, already participate in the A-300 programme,' said Mr. Kaufman. 'We know that Airbus Industrie is discussing possible derivatives of the A-300B with its partners but no proposals have yet been made to the UK Government regarding further participation in the programme.'

Postal traffic

Mr. Tom King (Bridgwater) asked for the latest figures available on postal traffic for first and second class mail in relation to the figures for the comparable period the previous year; and for a comparison of the split between first and second class mail.

Mr. MacKenzie answered: 'I understand from the Post Office that so far this financial year, ie for the period 1 April 1975 to 10 January 1976, the numbers of letters sent by first class mail was 24 per cent lower than in the corresponding period the previous year and the number of letters sent by second class mail was just over 3 per cent higher. This is a net overall reduction in volume of 9 per cent. For the same periods the first class stream accounted for 38.6 per cent and 46 per cent of all letters in 1975/76 and 1974/75, respectively.

'These figures are based on sampling and exclude mail franked by users' own postage meter machines.'

Furs and skins

Mrs. Audrey Wise asked the Secretary of State for Trade what powers he has to control the export and import of furs and skins of endangered species.

Mr. Deakins said that the Import, Export and Customs Powers (Defence) Act 1939, provides such powers but the Secretary of State for the Environment proposed to take more specific powers under the Endangered Species (Import and Export) Bill (being introduced in the House of Lords on 12 February).

ECGD

Mr. Tom King asked what discussions have been held with ECGD about the provision for loss of guarantees for exporting firms; and what conditions apply to such provision.

Mr. Deakins answered: 'ECGD issues a range of guarantees which protect exporters against losses arising from the major risks of non payment. It can also assist exporters by giving unconditional guarantees to UK banks which bring forward finance at preferential rates. In view of their importance to exporters, ECGD facilities are kept under constant review and on 18 December my Rt. Hon. Friend announced to Parliament a number of improvements in ECGD's facilities and procedures.'

Prices of cars

Mr. Eldon Griffiths (Bury St. Edmunds) asked the Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection what sources of information are available to her on the prices of British cars, other than trade journals.

Mr. Maclennan said: 'The motor vehicle manufacturers are the prime source of the information available to Government Departments on the prices of British built cars.'

Petrol prices

Mr. Neil Macfarlane (Sutton and Cheam) asked what investigations have been made regarding the above average petrol prices charged when trading stamps are offered; and what guidelines are provided for the masked price offer, in general terms.

Mrs. Williams answered: 'Officials have recently completed a study of petrol prices and the reasons why prices vary between different outlets. Guidance about prices is contained in the Price Code, which limits distributors' overall profit margins but not their freedom to adopt particular promotional techniques. I shall be making a statement on my Department's investigations shortly.'

Spanish fruit and vegetables

Mr. Frank Hooley (Sheffield, Heeley) asked if the DPCP was taking steps to ensure that cheaper prices for Spanish fruit and vegetables, following the devaluation of the peseta, are passed on to the consumer.

'Import prices of fresh fruit and vegetables reflect various market factors in addition to the prevailing rates of exchange,' said Mr. Maclennan. 'The Price Code ensures that consumers benefit from any price reductions by controlling the overall margins of distributors in the UK.'

Consumers' legal rights

Mr. Jack Ashley (Stoke on Trent South) asked what is being done to enlarge public understanding by consumers of their legal rights.

Mr. Williams answered: 'I have no doubt that consumers are better aware of their rights than ever before and the position is being steadily improved. I and my Department take every opportunity to publicise ad-

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vances in consumers' rights, including the right to buy subsidised food at controlled prices. With the aid of special Government grants, the number of consumer advice centres will have increased to over 120 by the end of the year and the Citizens' Advice Bureaux network is also being expanded. The Office of Fair Trading is issuing a wide range of informative leaflets, posters and other publications, including material on the implementation of the Consumer Credit Act 1974.'

Friday, 13 February

Consumer advice centres

Mr. Michael Brotherton (Louth) asked for a list of consumer advice centres in the Yorkshire and Humberside Region, stating where they are located, the cost of running each centre for the latest period for which figures are available and the estimates of the rateable value of the property occupied by each centre.

Mr. Williams said: 'According to the latest information available to me there are 13 centres in the Yorkshire and Humberside Region. There are fixed centres at Leeds, Huddersfield, Halifax, Bradford, Sheffield, Barnsley, Doncaster, Rotherham, Hull and Bridlington, and three mobile units serve parts of West Yorkshire.

'The other detailed information sought is not readily available, but annual running costs of £15-30,000, and 100-300 inquiries or visits per week, are typical figures for a fixed centre.'

'The Lazy Man's Way to Riches'

Mr. John Stonehouse asked if the advertisements appearing in the Sunday Times *on 1 February 1976 entitled 'The Lazy Man's Way to Riches' would be referred to the Director General of Fair Trading.*

Mr. Williams replied: 'The Director General of Fair Trading and the Advertising Standards Authority are already aware of this advertisement and they find no reason to advise against its acceptance by publishers.'

UK shipbuilding

Mr. John Biggs-Davison (Epping Forest) asked what proportion of UK shipping is currently being built in Great Britain, in Northern Ireland and in any other country, respectively.

Mr. Kaufman said that orders for ships for UK registration outstanding at present are distributed among countries as follows:

Country of build	Percentage of tonnage
United Kingdom	51
Japan	21
German Federal Republic	8
Denmark	8
Canada	3
Spain	2
Poland	2
Other countries	5
	100

'I regret that it is not possible to give separate figures for Northern Ireland,' said Mr. Kaufman.

Bankruptcies

Mr. Robert Adley (Christchurch and Lymington) asked how many firms went bankrupt during 1970, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1974 and 1975.

Mr. Clinton Davis said that the partnerships (firms) included in the numbers of Receiving Orders and Orders of Administration (under Section 130 of the Bankruptcy Act 1914) made in England and Wales for the relevant periods were as follows:

1970	274
1971	264
1972	180
1973	153
1974	159
1975*	297

* Provisional.

Similar information in relation to Sequestration Orders in Scotland is not readily available.

Companies Acts

Mr. Anthony Grant (Harrow Central) asked how many limited companies are known to the Companies Registry as not having filed their annual returns in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act; how many prosecutions for such offences are being launched; and what steps are being taken to ensure that limited companies file their returns in time.

Mr. Clinton Davis said: 'Of the 643,000 companies on the register 186,000 are known to be in default to some degree in filing annual returns. During the first six weeks of 1976 661 summonses have been served on the directors of 204 companies in default; during the whole of 1975 the figures were 2,440 and 989, respectively. In addition 5,169 companies which failed in any way to respond to reminders were struck off the register during the first five weeks of 1976; for the year 1975 the figure was 28,000.

'Companies in default are systematically pursued by a computerised process of reminder letters leading, according to circumstances, to their directors being prosecuted or the companies being struck off.'

Subsidised freight slashing

Mr. R. C. Mitchell (Southampton, Itchen) asked the Secretary of State for Trade to detail consultations with other Western nations concerning the subsidised freight slashing by Eastern bloc shipping lines; and when he expects to be in a position to announce joint action on the matter.

Mr. Clinton Davis replied: 'The matter has been discussed multilaterally during the last two months or so by the Consultative Shipping Group, which consists of the Governments of 12 European maritime nations and Japan, and by the OECD Maritime Transport Committee. We have also had bilateral talks. Investigation and international discussions will continue. Any statement at this stage would be premature.'

Felixstowe Dock and Railway Co.

Mr. Nicholas Ridley (Cirencester and Tewkesbury) asked what comments have been received from the Takeover Panel in relation to the two current bids made for the Felixstowe Dock and Railway Co.

Mr. Clinton Davis replied: 'Figures are not available later than the year ended 31 December 1974. During that year the total of pilotage dues collected was £13,139,652. It is not expected that there will be any appreciable change in costs in the short term when pilotage is reorganised as proposed in the policy statement made on 11 December 1975 which accepted in general the recommendations contained in the report of the Steering Committee on Pilotage. There should be improvements in efficiency and cost effectiveness in the long term.'

Exports

Mr. David Howell (Guildford) asked for information on current values in millions of pounds sterling and index number of value and volume for exports of manufactures, imports and finished manufactures and imports of industrial materials for 1946 to 1974.

Mr. Deakins gave the following information:

Index numbers 1970 = 100

	Exports of manufactures (SITC(R) Sections 5 to 8)			Imports of finished manufactures (SITC(R) Sections 7 and 8)			Imports of industrial materials (SITC(R) Sections 2, 4, 5 and 6)		
	£ million fob	Unit value index	Volume index	£ million cif	Unit value index	Volume index	£ million cif	Unit value index	Volume index
1949	1,546	—	—	100	—	—	1,059	—	—
1950	1,877	—	—	101	—	—	1,298	—	—
1951	2,265	—	—	119	—	—	2,214	—	—
1952	2,224	—	—	177	—	—	1,799	—	—
1953	2,170	—	—	194	—	—	1,563	—	—
1954	2,199	64	51	166	67	12	1,589	77	52
1955	2,421	65	55	206	68	15	1,886	82	59
1956	2,672	67	59	234	65	16	1,850	83	58
1957	2,814	69	60	268	71	18	1,909	82	60
1958	2,757	70	58	303	73	21	1,580	74	55
1959	2,875	70	60	377	76	25	1,696	73	61
1960	3,097	72	63	517	77	35	2,085	75	71
1961	3,258	72	65	556	73	36	1,984	75	68
1962	3,336	73	66	602	73	39	1,880	72	66
1963	3,568	75	69	651	75	41	2,041	73	71
1964	3,773	76	72	837	78	51	2,443	76	82
1965	4,095	79	76	882	77	54	2,480	79	81
1966	4,390	82	78	991	79	60	2,540	81	80
1967	4,386	83	77	1,245	82	73	2,611	80	84
1968	5,413	90	88	1,653	93	85	3,327	90	95
1969	6,256	93	99	1,835	95	92	3,555	95	96
1970	6,866	100	100	2,072	100	100	3,862	100	100
1971	7,825	105	110	2,431	106	115	3,842	99	101
1972	8,257	111	112	3,130	111	146	4,286	102	109
1973	10,455	124	128	4,632	128	186	6,239	131	125
1974	13,685	155	135	5,555	152	189	8,953	190	129

Note: Value figures prior to 1949 and index numbers prior to 1954, are not available on a comparable basis.

Government Sales

Ministry of Defence

24 February 1976 Coin and Medal Plant, Machine Tools and Furniture

Location: The Tower Hotel, St. Katherine's Way, London E1 9LD

Auctioneers: Fuller Horsey Sons and Cassell (Dept. L), 52 Bow Lane, London EC4M 9ET (tel. 01-248 7954)

The lots which are lying at The Royal Mint, Tower Hill, London EC3N 4DR include power presses by Taylor and Challen (Model 581), Greenwood and Batley and Ralph Heaton, coin sorting, overlooking and barrell drying machines, spare mill rolls depth 23 in × width 24 in to depth 11 in × width 12½ in, 15 in × 72 in roll grinding, planing, boring, milling, drilling, grinding and slotting machines, centre lathes, billet shearing and cropping machines, annealing and salt bath furnaces, weighing machines, scales, trucks, stillages, baled cotton waste, white metal and lead ingots, phosphor bronze, new stores and plant spares, overalls, personal clothing lockers, office furniture, and numerous other effects.

3 March 1976 Furniture

Location: RAF Stafford, Sandon Road, Stafford

Auctioneers: Arnold and Son (Dept. L), 13 Market Place, Burton-upon-Trent, Staffs DE14 1HD (tel. 0283-64657)

A small sale of approximately 400 lots of mainly household furniture mostly lotted as single pieces or in small quantities and include dining suites, three-piece suites, occasional, dining, card, side, etc., tables. Dining, bedroom, fireside and easy chairs. Writing bureaux, bookcases, dressing tables, chests of drawers, beds, etc.

4 March 1976 Miscellaneous Stores

Location: The Golden Lion Hotel, King Street, Stirling

Auctioneers: Dixon and Wallace (Dept. L), Bank Buildings, Graham Square, Glasgow G31 1AW (tel. 041-554 2447/8/9)

Service clothing which include denim and BD trousers, blouses, jackets, raincoats, etc. Carpets, rugs, blankets, bedspreads, mattresses and scrap textiles. A large quantity of furniture, kitchen utensils and crockery. Industrial electrical and elecsronic assemblies. MT spares and tyres, jacks, hand tools, safes, ferrous and non-ferrous scrap. Stop and wrist watches, binoculars, telescopes, photographic equipment, Johnston 40 hp outboard motors, paints and oils. Two Bedford coaches (30 seats), Austin 1800 saloons, Ford Transit crewbus, Land Rover, Austin 1-ton 4 × 4, Zwicky rotary road sweeper and Morris Mini saloon. Matbro, Windgrove and Rodgers and Conveyancer fork lift trucks, Taylor Jumbo mobile crane (5-ton), Herbert Morris portable crane, Broomwade and Cordex air compressors, Baromix cement mixer, Wadkins saw sharpening machine, Edgwick precision tool grinder, Edwards swing beam folding machine, Edwards circle cutting machine, Phillips welding plant, Churchill, Keighly and Startrite lathes and Kitchen and Wade flanging machine.

10 March 1976 Miscellaneous Stores

Location: The Bristol Esso Hotel, Filton Road, Hambrook, Bristol

Auctioneers: Russell Baldwin and Bright (Dept. L), 19/21 King Street, Hereford (tel. 0432-55441)

The lots which are lying at several depots include lathes, millers, drills, grinders and other machine tools, tyres, hydraulic and other jacks, aircraft, MT and electrical spares, oscilloscopes, watches and cameras, 4,800 blankets, greatcoats, jerseys, trousers and other clothing, carpets, 8,500 chairs including dining, occasional, stacking and church, settees, dressing chests, card tables, bureaux and other furniture, scrap canvas and textiles, crockery and cutlery, three tractors, seven cabin trailers, Jones 6/10-ton crane, Scammell breakdown vehicle, road roller, Bedford lorry, minibus, Land Rover, cars, vans and a large collection of miscellaneous stores.

Catalogues for the above sales which give details of the lots, conditions of sale, viewing times, etc., are available from the auctioneers from two weeks before and up to the day of the sale. Price, Royal Mint 25p, others 10p (postal orders only).

Wembley Auction Sales 1975/76

2 March 1976

View Days:	Day preceding and morning of sale
Location:	Department of the Environment Property Services Agency Supplies Division Store India Pavilion Exhibition Grounds Wembley, Middx. Tel. 01-903 2508
Description of Goods:	Office and Miscellaneous Furniture Engineering, Electrical, Canteen, Domestic and Other Equipment
Auctioneers:	Messrs. Fuller, Horsey, Sons and Cassell 52 Bow Lane London EC4M 9ET Tel. 01-248 7954
Catalogue:	Direct from the auctioneer price 10p each

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March 3 Cotton Weaving, Wigan

March 10 Chemical, Widnes

March 11 Paint Manufacturing, Stockport

March 17 Stationers and Bookbinding, Manchester

April 14 Animal Feed Milling, Killamarsh

Also at an early date—Poster Writing, Blackburn and Weaving, High Bentham.

Catalogues (when available) from 53 King Street, Manchester (Tel. 061 832 8271)

Trade Information

Africa Container Lines Ltd.

Trade and Industry of 2 January 1976 (page 10) and 9 January (page 68) gave information about the liquidation of Africa Container Lines Ltd. With the exception of *Eastern Street*, which is presently in Lisbon for repair and will be the subject of a 'general average' charge, all the vessels listed in those notices are believed to have discharged.

A large number of containers offloaded from AFCL chartered ships have been stranded in various West African ports (Cotonou and Tema) for a number of months. For example, in Tema there are 98 containers remaining out of the 210 discharged from the *Bow Eck* on 12 May 1975; 93 out of the 207 discharged from the *Grethe Reith* on 26 May; 151 out of the 209 discharged from the *Hetland Ranger* on 17 June and 212 out of the 290 discharged from the *Anna Presthus* on 12 August. These are incurring charges at an estimated average of Cedis 64 each per day with an accumulated debt of Cedis 1,500 per container (Cedis 2.33 = £1 approx).

In view of the possibility that these containers will eventually be auctioned by the respective port authorities to meet these port dues, exporters concerned are urged to take immediate steps to arrange for the onward movement of their goods.

Further information will be published as soon as possible.

Misdescription of magnetic tapes

HM Customs and Excise state that some importers have been misdescribing consignments of magnetic tapes on Customs import entries. These should be entered under tariff sub-heading 92.12 A when unrecorded and sub-heading 92.12 B11 when recorded.

Customs and Excise have simplified the lay-out of sub-heading 92.12 B1 in the 1976 edition of the tariff and this should remove a possible cause of difficulty.

Customs and Excise to review import and exports procedures

Methods of achieving more effective communication of customs import and export requirements are being examined by HM Customs and Excise. They say that they are conscious of recent necessary but often complex changes in documentation procedures. The number of special reliefs and imports and export facilities available has increased as a result of the UK's entry into the EEC. Such changes are communicated by public notice but Customs and Excise are concerned because of the time spent on the corrections and amendment of documents. They feel that some agents and importers are not fully benefiting from available reliefs and schemes.

Agents, importers and others concerned are invited to contribute to the review. Comments on and suggestions should be sent to HM Customs and Excise, O and M Management Services Division (Mr. P. Duffin), Room 317, Vintry House, Queen Street Place, London EC4R 1BQ.

Visit of Greek Minister

Peter Shore, Secretary of State for Trade, with John Boutos, Greece's Alternate Minister of Co-ordination and Planning. Mr. Boutos and his party of senior officials had discussions in London this week with Mr. Shore and other Government Ministers on the further development of economic, commercial and technical relations between the two countries. On Wednesday the party visited Scotland to see construction of offshore oil platforms.

British Embassy in Tehran's new telephone numbers

The telephone numbers of the British Embassy in Tehran have been changed to the following, 645011 to 14 and 646017. Inquiries: CRE5 tel. 01-215 3454.

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ECGD news

£2 million line of credit for France. The Export Credits Guarantee Department has guaranteed a £2 million line of credit which Midland Bank Ltd. has made available to Credit du Nord et Union Parisienne, France. The loan will help finance contracts for capital goods and associated services placed in the UK by French buyers.

Exporters will receive 80 per cent of the UK contract price from the loan; the remaining 20 per cent is payable from the buyer's own resources. To qualify, a contract must have a minimum value of £10,000 and be placed by 31 December 1976.

For further information on this line of credit contact Mr. R. Singh of ECGD (tel. 01-606 6699, ext. 615) or Mr. F. Saitch of Midland Bank (tel. 01-606 9944, ext. 5258).

PVC complex for Poland. The Export Credits Guarantee Department has guaranteed a loan of up to £152 million to help finance a pvc turnkey complex being built at Wloclawek, 90 miles north west of Warsaw. Finance for the loan was made available by Lloyds Bank Ltd. to Bank Handlowy w Warszawie.

The contract which is between Petrocarbon Developments Ltd. and Polimex-Cekop, the Polish state import export company for chemical plant and equipment, is for a complex capable of producing 200,000 tons of pvc each year. It will also produce large amounts of chlorine, caustic soda and various solvents. Petrocarbon will handle the project management and have overall responsibility for construction of the complex.

The complex is due to be commissioned in 1978.

Scientific and technical equipment for Seoul University. The Export Credits Guarantee Department has guaranteed a £1.8 million loan to help finance part of a contract which Associated British Machine Tool Makers Ltd. has secured to supply and install scientific and technical equipment at Seoul National University, South Korea. The loan was made available by Rothschild on behalf of National Westminster Bank to the Economic Planning Board of the Government of the Republic of South Korea. The University departments which will benefit from the influx of new equipment include those concerned with medicine, pharmacy, drug institute, dentistry, home economics, fine arts, social science and astronomy.

Mozambique: Lourenco Marques renamed

Lourenco Marques has been renamed Maputo. It would be advisable for exporters to adopt the new name forthwith. Inquiries: CRE 01-215 5794.

Application for temporary exemption from import duty

The Department of Trade is considering an application for the temporary exemption from import duty of the goods listed below on the grounds that they are not made in this country or the Commonwealth or the supply available is not substantial having regard to the existing United Kingdom demand.

Representations are invited from manufacturers in this country or agents of Commonwealth manufacturers who consider they are, or will be within a reasonable period, in a position to supply a substantial proportion of the United Kingdom demand for these goods, or who are interested in their future production.

Temporary exemptions come into effect on the operative date of the Treasury Order in which the materials are specified and *will remain in operation until the date shown in column 4 below* or for such shorter period as may be justified.

Interested parties who wish to make representations should address them to General Division, Department of Trade, Kingsgate House, 66/74 Victoria Street, London SW1E 6SJ, preferably through a Trade Association, giving the respective reference shown below and stating whether their names may be passed to the applicants for temporary exemption.

Representations should be received by 5 March 1976.

Tariff heading	Proposed definition for tariff purposes	Applied for as	Exemption required until	Reference
98.11	Briar pipe bowls, without stems	As in previous column	30 June 1977	T 15814

Further Information

In many cases further information on the notices published on these pages is available to British exporters from the Department of Trade. The main branches concerned are: Commercial Relations and Exporters (CRE) Division, 1 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0ET (tel: direct dialling); and Overseas Tariffs and Regulations Section (OTAR), Export Data Branch, Export Services and Promotions Division, Export House, 50 Ludgate Hill, London EC4M 7HU (tel: 01-248 5757). In each case, the relevant information source is indicated at the end of the notice by its initials (OTAR or CRE) and, in the case of OTAR, the telephone extension. In the Tariff and Trade Notices section countries are grouped by continents as far as possible; they are listed alphabetically on the contents page.

Wood-fibre insulating board from Czechoslovakia, Finland, Norway, Poland and Sweden

On 17 October 1975 the Department of Trade announced that it was considering an application for the imposition of anti-dumping duties under the Customs Duties (Dumping and Subsidies) Act 1969 on wood-fibre insulating board imported from Norway and Poland (see *Trade and Industry*, 24 October, page 235). This application was extended on 4 November to include Czechoslovakia, Finland and Sweden.

The Department of Trade has now received satisfactory voluntary undertakings regarding future price levels for wood-fibre insulating board from all five countries. In these circumstances the Department will not proceed further with its investigation into the allegation of dumping.

The voluntary undertakings will apply to shipments on or after 1 February 1976.

Tariff and Trade Notices

Irish Republic

Changes in Value Added Tax. Changes in rates of VAT will take effect on 1 March 1976 as follows:

1 the 6.75 per cent rate to be increased to 10 per cent.
2 the 19.5 per cent rate to be increased to 20 per cent.
3 the 36.75 per cent rate on radios, television sets, record players and records to be increased to 40 per cent.
4 fur clothing (at present exempt) to be increased to 20 per cent.
5 the 36.75 per cent rate on motor cars and motor cycles to be reduced to 35 per cent.

Inquiries: OTAR ext. 466/639.

Netherlands

Foodstuffs: General Decree. Decree of 19 December 1975 (*Staatsblad*, 780), published on 3 February 1976, introduces a new Article 3 series into the General Decree.

This deals with toxic substances present in foodstuffs and beverages.

Copies of the above-mentioned decree (in Dutch) are available. An English translation is being prepared and should be available in about a month's time.

Inquiries: OTAR ext. 288/466/467.

Spain

Opening of global quotas. The Spanish global quotas for 1976 were published in *Trade and Industry*, 30 January, pages 318/19. The Spanish authorities have now invited applications from Spanish importers, merchants and industrialists against the following quotas for the first half of this year. Applications must be presented within 30 days from 10 February:

Quota no.	Tariff no.	Goods	Value pesetas
69	87.02.A	Motor vehicles for the transport of goods, or of persons and goods (dual-purpose)	665,500,000
70	87.02.B.2	Special vehicles for the transport of sands, rocks and minerals	214,358,881
71	ex 87.04 ex 87.05	Chassis and bodies for motor vehicles	22,500,000
72	87.01.A 87.01.B.2 ex 87.06	Tractors, and the parts for the manufacture of tractors	509,316,700
73	87.01.C 87.02.B.1 87.02.B.3 87.03 ex 87.06	Motor vehicles and their parts for their manufacture	432,960,000
75	87.14	Other vehicles, not self-propelled and their parts	15,391,643
76	91.09.A ex 91.10	Watch cases	440,000
77	92.11.C 92.11.D 92.11.E	Phonographs, dictaphones, and other apparatus for sound recording and reproduction	23,595,000
79	93.01 93.02 93.03 93.04 93.05 93.06	Arms	18,150,000
80	93.07	Ammunition	9,075,000
81	97.01 97.02 97.03	Toys	18,150,000
82	97.04 97.05 97.08	Equipment and articles for parlour games	14,520,000
83	98.01.A.2.b 98.01.A.2.d 98.01.B 98.12.A	Miscellaneous manufactures	2,475,000

Inquiries: OTAR ext. 462/471/472/473.

Further information

In many cases further information on the notices published on these pages is available to British exporters from the Department of Trade. The main branches concerned are: Commercial Relations and Exporters (CRE) Division, 1 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0ET (tel: direct dialling); and Overseas Tariffs and Regulations Section (OTAR), Export Data Branch, Export Services and Promotions Division, Export House, 50 Ludgate Hill, London EC4M 7HU (tel: 01-248 5757). In each case, the relevant information source is indicated at the end of the notice by its initials (OTAR or CRE) and, in the case of OTAR, the telephone extension. In the Tariff and Trade Notices section countries are grouped by continents as far as possible; they are listed alphabetically on the contents page.

Gibraltar

Tariff amendments. The *Gibraltar Gazette*, 22 January 1976, published Legal Notices 5, 6 and 7 which amend the first and second schedules to the Import and Export Ordinance as below:

Item	Article	Import duty
33	Other publications (written or pictorial)	Free
33A	Christmas cards which are imported and declared to be imported solely for sale in Gibraltar to aid a charity or cause approved by the Financial and Development Secretary	Free
38	CO_2 gas, non-alcoholic essences, preservatives and colouring matter imported by and for the purposes of an aerated water factory and CO_2 gas imported for use in the preparation of beer for bottling and for sale	Free
40	Ships and boats:	
	Vessels and house boats, whether powered by engines or not, of a gross tonnage less than 80 tons	10%
	Other ships and boats	Free
	Spare parts which the Financial and Development Secretary is satisfied are imported for a particular vessel which is not chargeable with duty	Free
	Other spare parts not elsewhere enumerated	10%
Sub-item 1 (a) (iv) is amended to read as follows:		
(iv)	Motor cycles and side-cars therefor whether imported together or separately *ad valorem*	20%
Sub-item (vii) is added:		
(vii)	Other vehicles, including trailers, not mechanically propelled *ad valorem*	10%

Inquiries: OTAR ext. 471/472/473/462.

Italy

Registration of eye hygiene products. The Italian *Official Gazette* 27, 30 January 1976, published a ministerial decree of 19 January, which states that all hygienic products for the eyes (including contact lens solutions and eye washes) must be registered with the Italian Ministry of Health. Those products not registered in this way must be withdrawn at once from retail sale. Inquiries: OTAR ext. 466/467/288.

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Port of Baltimore

Maryland Port Administration / 19 S. Charles Street / Baltimore, Md. 21201

BALTIMORE, 19 S. Charles St.,
Baltimore, Md. 21201 (301) 383-5753
Cable MARPORT; Telex 710-234-1075

BRUSSELS, Shell Bldg., 60 Rue Ravenstein
1000 Brussels, Belgium 513.01.49 and 513.54.05
Cable MARPORT; Telex 846-26862

LONDON & BIRMINGHAM, Carolyn House
Dingwall Road, Croydon, England CRO 3ET
01-681-1918 or 1919
Cable BALTPORT; Telex 851-944584

Malta

Import licensing control. The Malta *Government Gazette*, 30 January 1976, announced that with immediate effect, the importation of the following goods will require a specific import licence.

Instant coffee
Bathroom mats with foam underlay
Plastic sponges
Amendments to items already included in the list under import licensing control are as follows:
Soup cubes: amended to read 'soup cubes or tablets'
Ladies' pantihose tights: amended to read 'pantihose tights'

Inquiries: OTAR ext. 471/472/473/462.

Kuwait

Cigarettes health warning. A new Ministerial Order No. 2/1976 in the Kuwait *Official Gazette*, No. 1067 of 1 February 1976, repeals Ministerial Order No. 65/75 about a health warning to be printed in Arabic on each cigarette packet. The new Order reads as follows:

> With effect from 30 June 1976 all types of cigarettes may not be imported or allowed entry into the country unless each packet of such cigarettes shall have clearly written in a conspicuous place on it, in the Arabic language and in indelible printed letters, the following statement:
> 'OFFICIAL WARNING: SMOKING CAN DAMAGE YOUR HEALTH; WE ADVISE YOU TO GIVE UP SMOKING'
> Shipments in respect of which bank credits were opened prior to the date of issue of this Order shall be exempted from the application of the preceding Rule.

No further details are available. Inquiries: OTAR ext. 475/7026.

Standards. The General Committee for Standard Specifications in Kuwait announced in the *Official Gazette*, No. 001050 of 28 September 1975 the issue of the following standards:

KSS/31/75	Cast iron fittings for pressure pipelines
KSS/67/75	Sizes of folders from paper and cardboard
KSS/68/75	Designation of primary and supplementary range of untrimmed paper
KSS/69/75	Method of expression of dimensions of processed writing paper and certain classes of printed matter
KSS/70/75	Width of sheets of paper
KSS/71/75	Envelopes, postcards and similar articles cancellation area
KSS/72/75	Area reserved for the address on picture postcards
KSS/73/75	Sizes of picture postcards and letter cards
KSS/74/75	Internal diameters of cores of reels for paper
KSS/78/75	Sizes of correspondence envelopes and packets

Official Gazette, No. 001062 of 28 December 1975 announced an amendment to Standard Specification KSS/31/75.

Copies of the above standards are expected to be available at a later date from the British Standards Institution Library at 2 Park Street, London W1A 2BS (tel. 01-629 9000). British exporters requiring technical advice are advised to contact Technical Help to Exporters, British Standards Institution, Maylands Avenue, Hemel Hempstead, Herts HP2 4SQ (tel. 0442 2311).

No further details are available. Inquiries: OTAR ext. 475/7062.

Ghana

Entry permit regulations. Legal Instrument 1062 published in the *Ghana Gazette*, 30 January 1976, declares that from 27 January no visitors will be allowed to enter Ghana unless they have bought a cedi voucher worth at least US$50 (obtainable from the Ghana High Commission in London); this must be recorded in the traveller's passport. The vouchers can be exchanged for cedis on arrival in Ghana. Inquiries: CRE tel. 01-215 3064/3331.

Mozambique

Directorates of foreign and home trade. Mozambique's *Boletin Da Republica* no. 5-1 serie, 13 January 1976, gives details of Order 18/76, which sets up the National Directorates of Foreign Trade and Home Trade and abolishes the Advisory Committee on Trade and Industry and the Exports Promotion Board. Inquiries: OTAR ext. 460.

South Africa

Tariff application. Customs Tariff Application List 3/76, published in the South African *Government Gazette*, 6 February 1976 contains an application to the Board of Trade and Industries for increase in duty on horse, mule, ass and ox shoes, of iron or steel, or aluminium, classifiable under tariff subheadings 73.40.45 and 76.16.90.

British trade organisations thought to be interested in the application are being informed. Any British firm affected which wishes to make representations to the South African Board of Trade and Industries and belongs to a trade organisation should, therefore, first contact its own trade association.

If any firm proposes to make independent representations to the South African authorities and requires further information concerning the application, it should address inquiries to CRE tel. 01-215 5274.

Customs tariff changes. The following amendments were published in the South African *Government Gazette*, 30 January 1976:

R122	BN 84.62, 87.02. Tariff heading No. 84.62 is restated and the rates of duty on certain bearings are amended. A new note to Chapter 84 is also inserted in which the measurements of certain bearings are specified The reference to bearings in tariff headings 87.02 is also amended
R123	Item 306.04, BN 34.02. The provision for a rebate of duty on organic surface-active agents and surface active preparations, for use as grinding aids, is extended so that these products can be used for any purpose in the manufacture of colour, paint, varnish and allied products

Inquiries: OTAR ext. 471/472/473/462.

Bangladesh

Import policy. The Government of Bangladesh has announced its import policy for the period January to June 1976. Imports valued at Takas million 4,640 (£154 million) are envisaged – a decrease, in sterling terms, of about 16 per cent over the previous six months.

The policy places emphasis on the import of essential raw materials, machinery and spares, and other basic commodities. Substantial allocations have been made for raw materials for the pharmaceutical and chemical industries and for essential goods needed for the jute and tea industries.

As before, provision has been made for the import of a wide range of goods under the Wage Earner's Scheme.

Inquiries: OTAR ext. 420/475.

Malaysia

Bituminous mixtures, polyvinyl, filters: customs duties amendments. The Malaysian Government has passed the Customs Duties (Amendment) (No. 11) Order 1975 which amends the First Schedule to the Customs Duties Order 1968 by:

1 Substituting for the word 'Nil' in column four against heading 27.16 000 '25 per cent or 75 cts. per gallon, whichever is the higher'
2 Substituting for the word 'Nil' in column four against heading 39.02 320 '25 per cent or $250 per ton, whichever is the higher'
3 Inserting the following in the appropriate places:

Addresses of ECGD offices

The Export Credits Guarantee Department (ECGD) is a Government Department providing export credit insurance for United Kingdom exporters and insurance against political risks for new investments overseas. Although credit insurance is its main service to exporters the Department offers them a number of others. Firstly the Bank Guarantee scheme, enables exporters who are eligible to obtain export finance from their bank at a special low rate. Major projects carried out by British firms in overseas countries can be financed by the buyer credit technique which gives the exporter the bulk of his payment on shipment of the goods. Similar to this is the line of credit facility which extends the buyer credit principle to include contracts often with an individual value as low as £10,000. ECGD now insures 35 per cent of all UK exports. For full details of all ECGD services contact Publicity Branch, ECGD, Aldermanbury House, Aldermanbury, London EC2P 2EL, telephone 01-606 6699 extension 258, telex 883601, or get in touch with one of the offices listed below.

Central London

London, EC1 to EC4, WC1 and 2, W1 and SW1.

D. G. Hake, Waverley House, 7-12 Noel Street, London W1V 3PB. Tel. 01-437 2292, Telex 24105.

South London

London SE, SW2–20 and W2–14, Kent, Surrey (excluding the administrative district of Spelthorne), East and West Sussex, the eastern part of Hampshire, the Isle of Wight and the Channel Isles.

T. W. Hawes, 320 Purley Way, Croydon, Surrey CR0 4XJ. Tel. 01-686 9921. Telex 946998.

North London

London N, NW, E, the southern parts of Essex, Hertfordshire and Buckinghamshire, the Slough, Burnham and Datchet area of Berkshire and the Spelthorne district of Surrey.

C. W. Gentry, 593–599 High Road, Tottenham, N17 6SW. Tel. 01-808 4570. Telex 263615.

Belfast

The six counties of Northern Ireland.

R. H. Forsyth, River House, High Street, Belfast BT1 2BE. Tel. 0232 31743. Telex 74577.

Birmingham

Leicester, Nottinghamshire, Salop, Staffordshire, Warwickshire, West Midlands, the southern part of Derbyshire and that part of Hereford and Worcester formerly known as Worcestershire.

F. Wilmot, Colmore Centre, 115 Colmore Row, Birmingham B3 3SB. Tel. 021-233 1771. Telex 33132

Bristol

Dyfed, Powys, Gwent, West, Mid and South Glamorgan, Gloucester, Avon, Wiltshire, Oxon, Dorset, Somerset, Devon and Cornwall. That part of Hereford and Worcester formerly known as Herefordshire, Berkshire except the Slough, Burnham and Datchet areas and the western part of Hampshire.

R. A. Bounds, Robinson Building, 1 Redcliffe Street, Bristol BS1 6NP. Tel. 0272 299971. Telex 44248.

Cambridge

Bedfordshire, Cambridge, Norfolk, Northamptonshire and Suffolk, the northern parts of Essex, Hertfordshire and Buckinghamshire, and the southern part of Lincolnshire including the City of Lincoln.

H. Watson, Three Crowns House, 72-80 Hills Road, Cambridge CB2 1NJ. Tel. 0223 68801. Telex 81624.

Glasgow

Scotland and the Outer Isles.

F. R. Burge, Fleming House, 134 Renfrew Street, Glasgow G3 6TL. Tel. 041-332 8707. Telex 77130.

Leeds

Durham, Tyne & Wear, Northumberland, Cleveland, North, West and South Yorkshire, Humberside and the northern part of Lincolnshire.

W. Ford, West Riding House, 67 Albion Street, Leeds LS1 5AA. Tel. 0532 450631. Telex 55125.

Manchester

Gwynedd, Clwyd, Cheshire, Merseyside, Greater Manchester, Lancashire, Cumbria, the northern part of Derbyshire and Isle of Man.

R. H. K. Hughes, Elisabeth House, St. Peter's Square, Manchester M2 4AJ. Tel. 061-228 3621. Telex 667756.

New York

In the United States of America exporters can obtain assistance from the Department's resident Representative for the USA and Canada.

J. K. Sedman c/o British Trade Development Office, 150 East 58th Street, New York 10022 USA. Tel. 212-593 2258. Telex 420543.

Official Receivers' offices

Official Receivers are responsible for the administration of cases in bankruptcy and compulsory liquidation. Inquiries should be addressed to the nearest Official Receiver

High Court of Justice
Senior Official Receiver: J. B. Clemetson

Bankruptcy
Thomas More Building, Royal Courts of Justice, Strand, London WC2A 2JY (Tel: 01-405 7641)
Official Receivers: D. A. Thorne; J. Tye

Companies Winding-up
Atlantic House, Holborn Viaduct, London EC1N 2HD
(Tel: 01-583 8931)
Official Receivers: L. R. Bates; N. Saddler; H. W. J. Christmas

Birmingham
Commercial Union House, Martineau Square, Birmingham B2 4UP
(Tel: 021-236 8831/7)
A. D. Gwyther; J. F. Hirst

Bournemouth
Burlington Arcade, Bournemouth BH1 2JS
(Tel: 0202-28208/9)
R. F. Savage

Bradford
West Riding House, Cheapside, Bradford BD1 4LJ
(Tel: 0274-33651/2)
V. Duffy

Brighton
Windsor House (East Entrance), 30-35 Edward Street, Brighton BN2 2JZ
(Tel: 0273-64301/4 and 688265/8
J. F. O'Reilly

Bristol
Sun Alliance House, 4 Colston Avenue, Bristol BS1 4BN
(Tel: 0272-290268)
D. S. Clackett

Cambridge
49 Bateman Street, Cambridge CB2 1LT
(Tel: 0223-53930 and 59646)
W. J. Llewellyn

Canterbury
Lombard House, 12-17 Upper Bridge Street, Canterbury CT1 2NQ
(Tel: 0227-62070 and 65037)
A. R. Haigh

Cardiff
3rd Floor, Hayes House, The Hayes, Cardiff CF1 2UG
(Tel: 0222-30575/6/7)
B. J. Longley

Chester
Dee Hills Park, Chester CH3 5AR
(Tel: 0244-21471/2)
J. Carney

Croydon
Park House, 22 Park Street, Croydon CR9 1TX
(Tel: 01-681 2633)
R. A. D. Copper

Exeter
Eastgate House, High Street, Exeter EX4 3JU
(Tel: 0392-55445)
A. J. Seldon

Gloucester
Grosvenor House, Station Road, Gloucester GL1 1ST
(Tel: 0452-21658/9 and 27997)
H. W. Kirkwood

Hull
Beverley House, St. Stephen's Square, Hull HU1 3XF
(Tel: 0482-23720 and 23729)
J. E. Friend

Ipswich
St. Clare House, Greyfriars, Ipswich IP1 1LX
(Tel: 0473-56731)
T. A. Tuck

Leeds
Pearl Chambers, East Parade, Leeds LS1 5BX
(Tel: 0532-448851)
W. A. Bishop

Leicester
Prospect House, 94 Regent Road, Leicester LE1 7DE
(Tel: 0533-222513)
H. Roach

Liverpool
West Africa House, 25 Water Street, Liverpool L2 0RQ
(Tel: 051-236 9131/2)
K. Matthewson

Manchester
Townbury House, 11 Blackfriars Street, Salford M3 5AB
(Tel: 061-832 2471)
K. A. Miller; A. N. Percy

Newcastle upon Tyne
3rd Floor, 4 St. Nicholas Buildings, St. Nicholas Street, Newcastle upon Tyne NE1 1RF (Tel: 0632-21104/5)
F. Durkin

Northampton
90 Abington Street, Northampton NN1 2BX
(Tel: 0604-37288/9)
W. J. Llewellyn

Norwich
Davey House, Castle Meadow, Norwich NOR O2D
(Tel: 0603-28983/4)
T. A. Tuck

Nottingham
1 Collin Street, Nottingham NG1 7EP
(Tel: 0602-51596/8)
W. W. Jordan

Plymouth
63 New George Street, Plymouth PL1 1RD
(Tel: 0752-68554)
A. J. Seldon

Reading
PO Box No. 40, Monarch House, 75-79 Caversham Road, Reading RG1 8AW
(Tel: 0734-581931/5)
E. A. Perkins

Rochester
Gordon House, Star Hill, Rochester
(Tel: 0634-42603 and 46906)
A. R. Haigh

St. Annes-on-sea
Petros House, St. Andrews Road North, Lytham St. Annes FY8 2JD
(Tel: 0253-721271)
M. Clark

Sheffield
8/12 Furnival Gate, The Moor, Sheffield S1 4QN
(Tel: 0742-26691/3)
T. Wilks

Southampton
21 London Road, Southampton SO9 1NQ
(Tel: 0703-23348/9 and 23340)
R. F. Savage

Southend
2nd Floor, Colman House, 61 Victoria Avenue, Southend-on-Sea SS2 6EF (Tel: 0702-41316/7)
F. L. Sage

Stockton
4 Bridge Road, Stockton-on-Tees, Teesside TS18 3BP
(Tel: 0642-65598/9)
F. Durkin

Stoke
London House, Hide Street, Stoke-on-Trent ST4 1QN
(Tel: 0782-45256/8)
A. K. Sales

Swansea
5th Floor, Sun Alliance Building, 166/167 St. Helens' Road, Swansea SA1 5DL (Tel: 0792-428613)
P. W. Nunn

Watford
40 Clarendon Road, Watford WD1 1HJ
(Tel. 0923-44288)
F. L. Sage

CRE Commercial Relations and Exports Divisions
Department of Trade
1 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0ET
Tel. Direct dialling (see end of each notice)

OTAR Overseas Tariffs and Regulations Section
Export Data Branch
Export Services and Promotions Division
Department of Trade
Export House, 50 Ludgate Hill, London EC4M 7HU
Tel. 01-248 5757 (extension at end of each notice)

Heading no.	Description	Unit of quantity	Federation common tariff
84.18	Centrifuges: filtering and purifying machinery and apparatus (other than filter funnels, milk strainers and such) for liquids or gasses		
190	Oil filters and air filters	No	25% or $1.50 each whichever is the higher
	Parts		
915	for sub-heading 84.14 190	Value	25%

The Customs Duties (Penang) (Amendment) (No. 9) Order 1975 amends the Customs Duties (Penang) Order 1973 to make these duties applicable in Penang also. Inquiries: OTAR ext. 469/468/401.

Bituminous mixtures, polyvinyl, filters: import control. The Malaysian Government has passed the Customs (Prohibition of Imports) (Temporary Protective Measure) (Amendment) (No. 8) Order 1975 which amends the first schedule of the 1973 Order by:

1 deleting the heading numbers 27.16 000, 39.02 320, 84.18 600 and 84.18 990 and all particulars
2 inserting the following in the appropriate place.

Heading no.	Description of goods	Country
84.18	Centrifuges: filtering and purifying machinery and apparatus (other than filter funnels, milk strainers and such) for liquids and gasses	
190	Oil filters and air filters	All countries
	Parts	
915	for sub-heading 84.18 190	All countries

The first schedule lists goods prohibited from entry into the Federation without an import licence.
Inquiries: OTAR ext. 469/468/401.

Japan

Invoice requirements: Following a change in documentation procedure which came into effect on 1 January 1976, British exporters should, whenever possible, include the Brussels Nomenclature (BN) number on commercial invoices for exports to Japan. This will assist the importer to add a three-figure Japanese sub-classification to comply with the new system.
Inquiries: OTAR ext. 420/475.

JAPAN DISSATISFIED WITH THE LIMITED RESULTS ACHIEVED THROUGH AGENTS AND DISTRIBUTORS?

EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITIES await enterprising British manufacturers in the form of joint venture operations, wholly owned subsidiaries, branch sales operations and technological licence agreements in Japan. But in order to ensure that the best possible advantage is taken of such opportunities, it is absolutely essential to appoint a local representative possessing the necessary expertise and connections to act on your behalf. As Advisers and Consultants with years of experience of negotiations with Japanese manufacturers in the above sectors, we are pleased to offer our specialised services, which also include market research.

G. INOUYE, Managing Director
RAYDEN (JAPAN) LTD, Shokin Building, 11-12, 8-chome, Ginza, Chuo-ku, Tokyo, Japan. Tel: 571-3023/5. Telex: J28647 (Raydenco).
Cables: Raydenco, TOKYO

The headquarters of the Seton group of companies at Oldham, Lancs, took on an international atmosphere for the opening of a new training centre. Fourteen of Seton's overseas distributors and representatives flew in from Europe and America to learn more about the range of specialised surgical dressings and associated hospital equipment produced by the group. The company's exports go to more than 100 countries. Exports increased 40 per cent in the last financial year, now accounting for almost 40 per cent of Seton's £2.5 million turnover. The picture shows Derek Frost, promotions manager, with Swiss representative George Bohler, who is wearing a Seton tubular bandage.

New Zealand

Industries Development Commission report. Copies of the following New Zealand Industries Development Commission (late Tariff and Development Board) report are available from Commercial Relations and Exports Division:

Quicklime, slaked lime and hydraulic lime, other than calcium oxide and hydroxide (tariff item 25.22.000).

Ref. CRE 511/75. Inquiries: CRE tel. 01-215 5321.

United States

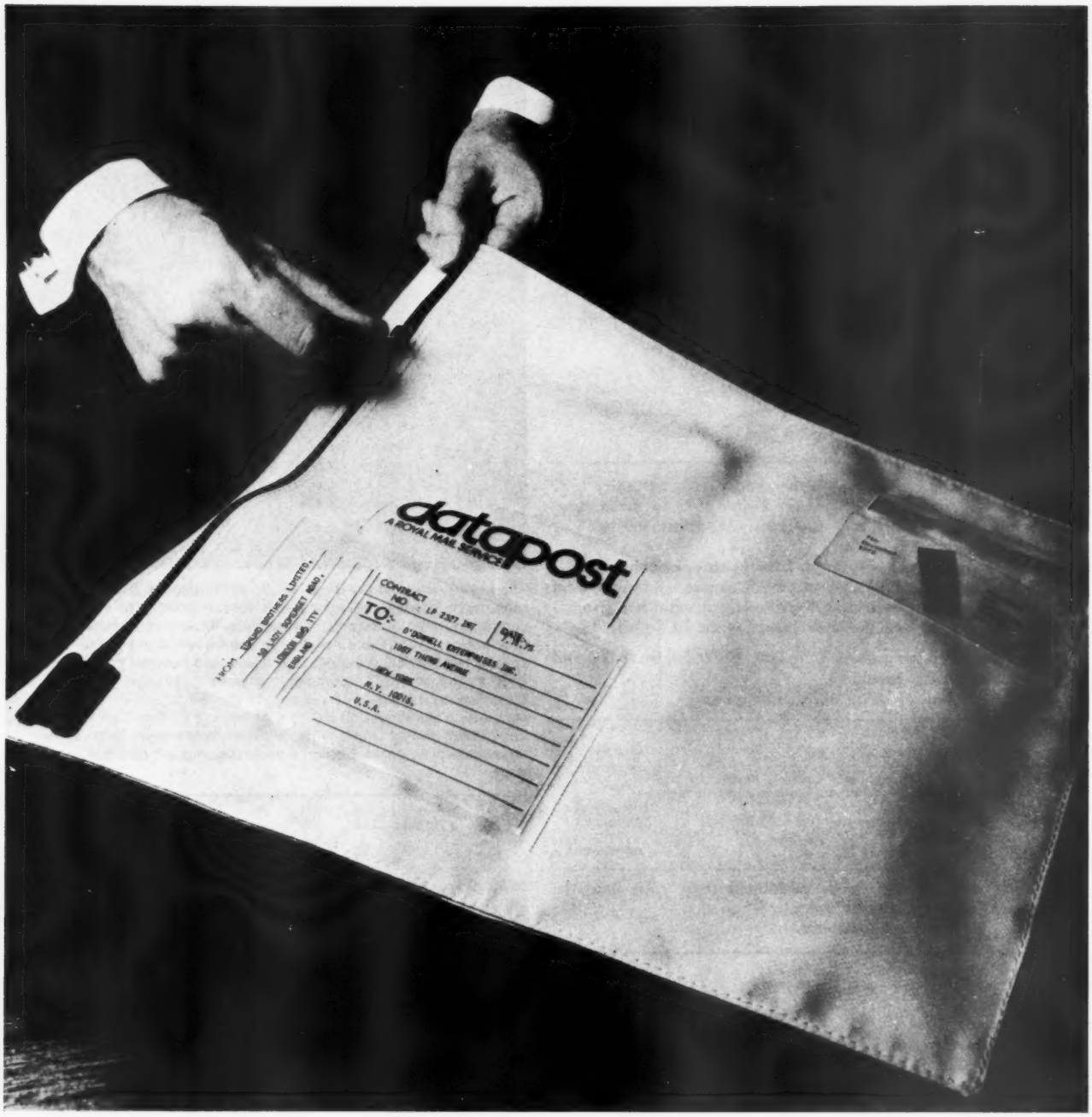
Escape clause investigation into imports of honey. The US International Trade Commission has instituted an investigation into

Advertising in 'Trade and Industry'

All advertising in *Trade and Industry* is now handled by T. G. Scott & Son Limited of 1 Clement's Inn, London WC2A 2ED (tel: 01-242 6264 and 01-405 4743), and not by Her Majesty's Stationery Office.

Trade and Industry continues to be published for the Departments of Industry, Trade and Prices and Consumer Protection by Her Majesty's Stationery Office and all existing contracts and agreements will continue unchanged.

Her Majesty's Stationery Office will continue to handle all circulation and distribution matters and subscription inquiries and queries should continue to be addressed to them.



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imports of honey. Public hearings will be held in various cities in the USA commencing 2 March 1976. Requests for appearances should be made in writing to the Secretary by the fifth calendar day prior to hearings. Inquiries: CRE tel. 01-215 5629.

Food labelling for flavour ingredients. The *Federal Register* dated 3 February 1976 published details of the review programme by the Food and Drug Administration of the food ingredients generally recognised as safe (GRAS). The ingredients declaration on the label for spices, flavourings, colourings and preservatives has been extended to 1 July 1979 for those flavour ingredients that are included in the GRAS list.

A copy of the text is available. Inquiries: ext. 456/457/7312.

Jamaica

Documentation: Although Jamaica abolished the Commonwealth Preferential Rate on 1 January 1976, the Customs authorities continue to require that the specified form of invoice and combined certificate of origin and value should accompany goods imported from the UK.

Inquiries: OTAR ext. 7312/456/457.

St. Vincent

Consumption Tax amendments. By SRO No. 24 of 1975 the St. Vincent authorities have changed the rate of Consumption Tax on various items. British exporters with inquiries should specify the items in which they are interested. Inquiries: OTAR ext. 7312/456/457.

Import licensing restrictions. The St. Vincent authorities by SRO No. 25 of 1975 state that a licence is required for the importation into St. Vincent of the following items:

61-01-20 Suits other than of waterproof material
61-01-30 Trousers other than of waterproof material
61-01-40 Jackets other than of waterproof material

Inquiries: OTAR ext. 7312/456/457.

Trinidad and Tobago

Work permits. The Trinidad authorities have stated that from 1 April 1976 businessmen and travelling salesmen entering Trinidad and Tobago will require a valid work permit. Forms are not yet available but further information will be published in due course.

Inquiries: CRE tel. 01-215 5296.

Panama

Restrictions on clutch parts. The Panamanian Ministry of Commerce and Industry has announced the following restriction:

Product	Quota
Pressure plates and clutch discs for use in the automobile trade	25 per cent of the total imports for 1974

Inquiries: OTAR ext. 476/474.

Venezuela

Tariff amendments. Resolution No. 838 of the Ministerio de Hacienda modifies the customs duties on certain products in the following manner:

BTN no.	Duties *ad val* cif	Specific	Restrictions
38.11.01.01.02	40%		
48.11.01.00	50%		
92.12.02.19.99	47%		(4)

This Resolution entered into force two days after its publication in the *Gaceta Oficial de la Republica da Venezuela* (3 February 1976).

Inquiries: OTAR ext. 474/476.

Colombia

Additions to the 'Free Import Licence List'. Resolution No. 048 of 28 October 1975 adds the following goods to the 'Free Import Licence List':

49.01.01.00	49.01.89.01	49.01.89.02	49.02.01.00	49.03.00.00	49.04.00.00
49.05.00.00	49.08.01.00	49.08.89.00	49.09.00.00	49.10.00.00	49.11.01.01
49.11.01.02	49.11.01.99	49.11.02.99	49.11.89.99		

In addition, this present Resolution adds the products under BTN 48.07.01.99 to the 'Previous Import Licence List'. Goods on this list not only require 'Registration' with INCOMEX (Colombian Institute of Foreign Trade) but also approval in the form of a licence from the Exchange Control Board before importation is allowed. These licences are approved only if similars are not available in Colombia.

Inquiries.: OTAR exts. 474/476.

Brazil

Import restrictions: CACEX Communicado no. 543, published on 9 February 1976, has, under the powers laid down in Decree-Law 1.427, suspended the issue of import licences for a list of 300 items having national similars until 30 June 1976. Cars and a wide range of consumer goods are affected. At present there are no details available but these will be published as soon as they are received.

Among goods not affected are whisky and cod-fish, goods imported for re-export and gifts and donations involving no exchange remittance or coming from LAFTA countries.

This measure does not constitute a direct ban, which would be contrary to GATT, but simply a refusal to issue import licences. If goods are imported without a licence the importer has to pay the import duty (in most cases 205 per cent) plus a 50 per cent Manufactured Goods Tax plus a fine of 100 per cent of the value of the goods.

No further information is available at present.

Inquiries: OTAR ext. 476/474.

Chile

Documentation and agency commission. Under Chilean Central Bank Circulars Nos. 2440 and 2441, both of 16 January 1976, import transactions will no longer require the provision of the Suppliers' Certificate which, since early 1970, has been one of the standard shipping documents required from suppliers. The Certificate was mainly related to the deduction – and direct payment in local currency to local agents – of any commission certified as due by the foreign supplier.

No deduction of such commissions will consequently be made from future payment remittances, and though they should appear on the prior import registration form (ie, application for import licence) it will be the direct responsibility of the local agent to sell in the official exchange market, within 10 days of receipt, any commission received from foreign principals.

Inquiries: OTAR ext. 474.

European Community News

Go-ahead for negotiations on Greek membership

Foreign ministers of the Nine have pronounced unanimously in favour of the application by Greece for EEC membership.

At their meeting on 9 February they asked the commission and the committee of permanent representatives to undertake preliminary work in order to allow negotiations to open as soon as possible.

After considering the formal opinion of the commission on the subject, the ministers did not endorse the proposal for a pre-accession preparatory period. They agreed that there should be a transitional period following Greek accession to the community, as there has been for the UK, Denmark and Ireland.

Canada and Spain

In addition to Greece, the ministers discussed the community's relations with Canada and Spain.

On Canada, the council adopted the decision authorising the commission to open negotiations with a view to concluding a framework economic co-operation agreement. The agreement to be negotiated will be in addition to those already existing between individual member states and Canada.

Welcoming the decision to proceed, Sir Christopher Soames, commissioner responsible for external affairs, said the commission hoped to open negotiations in the near future.

Ministers also agreed to resume negotiations with Spain for a revised trade agreement which will include the three new members of the community – the UK, Denmark and Ireland. Negotiations were broken off last October.

Afterwards Mr. Callaghan explained that recent speeches in Spain about reforms had 'been of assistance' in the council decision, but that closer relations depended on further steps forward. 'I have made clear my position,' he said, 'about the recognition of the trade union movement and the accession of Spain to some of the basic conventions concerning free collective bargaining that I think are important in this connection.'

Ciec

During their discussion on the conference on international economic co-operation the council agreed the guidelines to be followed by the community spokesmen at the first meetings of the four conference commissions – on energy, raw materials, development and financial affairs – which began their work in Paris on 11 February.

Common fisheries policy

On the question of a common fisheries policy, ministers heard a brief report from Jean Dondelinger, the Luxembourg Permanent Representative to the EEC and chairman of the committee of permanent representatives, concerning preparatory talks already held on the subject.

Mr. Dondelinger pointed out that the commission hoped to submit concrete proposals by the middle of this month so that the council could hold a discussion at its next meeting on 1 March. He spoke of three interlinked elements which had to be settled simultaneously: the first concerned the internal community fisheries regime after the extension of limits to 200 miles; the second, the external need to negotiate fishing rights with third countries; and thirdly, the need to prepare a community position for the next session of the UN Law of the Sea Conference which begins on 10 March.

Referring afterwards to the inseparable nature of these elements as far as the common fisheries policy was concerned, Mr. Callaghan said, 'We have asked the commission to make firm proposals on the future CFP as quickly as they can.'

On the question of what special rights British fishermen would seek once there was international acceptance of a 200-mile limit, and a modified community fishing policy giving other EEC nations access to British fishing grounds, Mr. Callaghan said the commission had prepared a very good paper on the basic situation and that Britain now wanted the commission to make some practical proposals 'about how we go forward'.

Mr. Callaghan emphasised that he hoped there would be early negotiations on the CFP. 'The Norwegians want to start discussions with us but we have explained to them that we want to see what the CFP can come up with.'

Direction elections

Also on the foreign ministers' agenda was the question of direct elections to the European parliament. Ministers held a first discussion on the different formulae for the number and distribution of seats in advance of the full debate on the draft direct elections convention which is to take place at the council on 1-2 March.

Mr. Callaghan asked for the preparation of a wide range of possible formulae for the distribution of seats so that ministers would have to hand a large number of appropriate mathematical variations. He also said that he thought the French views on proportionality – that the distribution of seats should be more closely related to the populations of member states – deserved careful examination. Asked if he thought the ground rules for direct elections could be settled at the European council in April, he said ministers would have to move a long way and 'we shall not be the laggards'.

Skimmed milk

During discussions on the question of the disposal of community intervention stocks of over 1 million tonnes of skimmed milk power, ministers heard a commission proposal for using a major part – 600,000 tonnes – for incorporation in animal feed.

Mr. Callaghan, with the Dutch minister, wondered how the commission could be certain that this method would have a once-and-for-all effect, preventing surpluses from recurring. He stressed that public opinion in the UK, if not in other areas of the community, would react unfavourably to the use of milk powder to produce more milk.

Greek satisfaction with council decision

In a statement issued on 10 February, the Greek Prime Minister, Mr. Karamanlis, expressed his 'strong satisfaction' at the council decision. He described the ministers' approval of the Greek request for EEC membership as of 'historic significance' for his country.

'On this occasion,' he said, 'I consider it my duty to express my deep appreciation to the governments of the nine member states of the community for the understanding with which they treated the Greek request.

'I nourish the conviction,' he went on, 'that Greece will justify the trust with which she has been received by the other countries of the European community; and will become a positive and creative element within Europe, contributing, to the extent of her potentialities, to the realisation of the European ideal.'

First European telecommunications network for scientific and technical information

An outline agreement for a European data transmission network for scientific and technical information – Euronet – came into force on 6 February.

The agreement was concluded in December last between the European commission and a consortium of the postal and telecommunication authorities of the nine community member states. The consortium held its first meeting in Paris on 6 February.

This new network will enable users throughout the EEC to gain rapid and efficient access for computer searches to a variety of information centres. The initial step to this co-operation in the development of scientific and technical information services was taken in 1971 by the communities' council of ministers when they authorised the development of a European information network for science and technology. This is conceived as a resource sharing network to open up and gain the benefits of scale and selectivity from community-wide provision of information services.

Tempo accelerated in March 1975 when the council of ministers approved an initial action plan covering the years 1975-77 and including the creation of an advanced packet-switch telecommunications network as a 'data-highway' for the community in relation to information services.

Scientific and technical information is interpreted broadly and, from quite early on, Euronet will offer access to a wide variety of subject files in the aerospace, energy, nuclear, physics, chemistry and metallurgy fields, as well as in medicine, statistics, law, economics and agriculture.

The network, which is to be operated and managed by the European PTTs, is planned to be operational from mid-1977. It will be based on the packet-switch technology of the European Informatics Network (EIN) which the Department's National Physical Laboratory has taken a major part in developing.

There will be switching nodes in London, Paris, Frankfurt and Rome and remote concentrators at Amsterdam, Brussels and Copenhagen. Additional concentrators in Dublin and Luxembourg are envisaged. There will be a network management centre at a location yet to be decided.

This establishment of the Euronet telecommunications network represents an important stage in the community's scientific and technical information programme. The largest body of users and the most economically important will be in industry.

Choosing a business partner elsewhere in the community

The commission of the European communities set up the business co-operation centre to encourage co-operation between firms in different member states wishing to increase competitiveness and respond to the opportunities opened up by access to the community's markets. Co-operation is defined as pooling one or more activities of partner firms; for example, in research and development, supplies, production, marketing and sales and management.

A firm seeking the centre's help will be asked to provide certain information about itself, and to define exactly what type of partner and what type of co-operation it wants. All the information supplied, and any inquiries received, are treated as strictly confidential, and no names are revealed without the agreement of all parties. The centre will search its files for a suitable partner, and, if the application cannot be matched with an offer already registered, will, if the firm agrees, circulate a summary of the firm's requirements, with no names mentioned, to the 'correspondents' which it has in every country of the community.

It is as one of the centre's correspondents in this country that we reproduce the latest batch of requests for co-operation. Readers wishing to obtain further information should write direct to the centre at the following address, quoting the reference number of the request(s) in which they are interested: Business Co-operation Centre, rue Archimede 17, B-1040 Brussels. The centre makes no charge for its services.

BRE/3505/258
French company specialising in the development and production of synthetic organic products, and especially in surface-active by-products used for specific purposes (anionic, non-ionic, cationic and amphoteric), designed principally for the perfumery and pharmaceutical industries, civil engineering, the leather and hide, dye, paint and metallurgical industries etc.; turnover of FF11 million; 55 employees (of whom 10 in the laboratories); wishes to co-operate with British firm in the chemical sector with a view to an exchange of know-how and the reciprocal marketing of complementary products, and possibly specialisation in production. The acquisition of an interest by the partner is desired.
Languages: French, English, German.

BRE/3646/611
French limited company trading in ingredients for animal foodstuffs with a turnover of FF14 million (increasing at about 40 per cent per year); sales in France of additives (antibiotics, vitamins) to 240 manufacturers or regional distributors; exportation of proteins and foodstuffs for calves milk-replacers (30 per cent of turnover); seeks a larger British partner, who is either a manufacturer of animal foodstuffs or is a phyto-pharmaceutical laboratory, and who would be willing, through a co-operation agreement, more particularly of a financial nature, to help establish and continue the rapid development of the French company.
Languages: French, English.

BRE/3697/48
Italian firm engaged in the plastics sector; rolling and stamping out under vacuum of polystyrene strips and sheets, in different dimensions and thicknesses (90 per cent for refrigerator manufacturers and the food industry); annual output 10,000 tons, 70 employees, seeks a partner in the United Kingdom with a view to a co-operation, which could take the following forms:

1 reciprocal financial participation (which could extend to a 30 per cent shareholding)
2 creation of a new industrial unit producing plastic laminates for further products (for which the Italian company has already researched the market outlets) and could be set up either in Italy, the partner's country, or a third country; joint finance to be provided by the two partners.

Languages: French, English, German.

More on the EEC

Information on EEC matters and about member states can often be found in other sections of *Trade and Industry*.
For this week's additional news, turn to the following pages:

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New EC legislation

The legislation listed below has been published in the *Official Journal of the European Communities* as indicated against each item. The *Official Journal* is now published in English and copies should be obtained from HMSO. Information about the items listed, in so far as other member states' requirements are concerned, is available to British exporters from Department of Trade, Export Services and Promotions Division, Export House, 50 Ludgate Hill, London EC4M 7HU (tel. 01-248 5757, ext. 7174/482/408). Other information may be obtained from the reference point given at the end of the item.

Common Agricultural Policy

The texts of the following regulations which affect various agricultural sectors in the EEC have been published in the *Official Journal of the European Communities:*

Cattle, beef and veal. Regulation (EEC) 222/76 deferring the qualifying date in respect of beef put up for sale by the intervention agencies under Regulation (EEC) 2320/74. In Article 1 (1) the date 31 July 1975 is replaced by 31 October 1975 (*Official Journal* L26, 31 January 1976).

Regulation (EEC) 223/76 setting up a system linking imports of beef and veal products effected by way of protective measures with the sale of preserved beef held by intervention agencies (*Official Journal* L26, 31 January 1976).

Corrigendum. The *Official Journal* L26, 31 January 1976, contains the following correction to Regulation (EEC) 76/76 (published in *Official Journal* L10, 17 January 1976) setting up a system linking imports of beef and veal products effected by way of protective measures with the sale of beef held by intervention agencies:

Article 1 (b), first indent, third line:
for: 'is out at its thickest point'
read: 'is cut at its thickest point'
Article 2 (3), fourth line:
for: 'mountain breeds, or to imports',
read: 'mountain breeds and for frozen beef and veal, or to imports'.

Milk and milk products. Regulation (EEC) 250/76 amending Regulation (EEC) 1107/68 on detailed rules of application for intervention in the market in Grana Padano and Parmigiano Reggiano cheeses (*Official Journal* L30, 5 February 1976).

Harmonisation of legislation

The *Official Journal of the European Communities* L24, 30 January 1976, contains the texts of the following directives:

Motor vehicles. Directive 76/114/EEC on the approximation of the laws of the member states relating to statutory plates and inscriptions for motor vehicles and their trailers, and their location and method of attachment.

Directive 76/115/EEC on the approximation of the laws of the member states relating to anchorages for motor vehicle safety belts.

Further information: Department of Industry, Vehicle Division, Abell House, John Islip Street, London SW1P 4LN, tel. 01-211 5658.

Fertilisers. Directive 76/116/EEC on the approximation of the laws of the member states relating to fertilisers.

Further information: Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, Eagle House, 90-96 Cannon Street, London EC4, tel. 01-626 1515, ext. 3253.

Electrical equipment. Directive 76/117/EEC on the approximation of the laws of the member states concerning electrical equipment for use in potentially explosive atmospheres.

Further information: Health and Safety Executive, Branch SGA4, 401 Edgware Road, Cricklewood, London NW2, tel. 01-450 8911, ext. 250.

Dehydrated milk. Directive 76/118/EEC on the approximation of the laws of the member states relating to certain partly or wholly dehydrated preserved milk for human consumption.

Further information: Ministry of Agriculture Fisheries and Food, Great Westminister House, Horseferry Road, London SW1, tel. 01-216 6178.

Outward processing. Directive 76/119/EEC on the harmonisation of provisions laid down by law, regulation or administrative action in respect of outward processing.

Further information: HM Customs and Excise, International Customs, Branch 1, Kings Beam House, 39/41 Mark Lane, London EC3R 7HE, tel. 01-626 1515, ext. 2174.

Imports from non-member states

The *Official Journal of the European Communities* L30, 5 February 1976, contains the text of Regulation (EEC) 249/76 repealing the community surveillance of imports of tape recorders instituted by Regulation (EEC) 1060/73 (*Official Journal* L121, 8 May 1973). Regulation (EEC) 249/76 repeals Article 2 of Regulation (EEC) 1060/73 and deletes from column 3 of Annex 1 to Regulation (EEC) 1439/74 on common rules for imports (*Official Journal* L159, 15 June 1974 and *Official Journal* C287, 15 December 1975) the reference to subheading 92.11 AIII of the common customs tariff.

Community patent convention

The *Official Journal of the European Communities* L17, 26 January 1976, contains the text of the convention for the European patent for the common market (community patent convention) signed on the 15 December 1975. Copies of *Official Journal* may be obtained from HMSO, price 70p (plus 11p postage).

EEC rules of competition

The *Official Journal of the European Communities* L6, 13 January 1976, contains the text of a commission decision dated 2 December 1975 relating to a proceeding under Article 85 of the Treaty of Rome.

76/29/EEC Association des Ouvries en Instruments de Précision (AOIP)/Mr. Norbert Beyrard (reference DGIV/26.949) concerning an agreement under which Mr. Byrard granted an exclusive patent licence to AOIP for the manufacture and sale of a number of liquid variable resistor electrical devices. The commission considered that some of the clauses in the agreement infringed Article 85(1) and ruled that they should be brought to an end.

Further information: Department of Prices and Consumer Protection, Fair Trading Division, 1 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0ET, tel. 01-215 5092.

Applications for copies of the 'Official Journal of the European Communities' containing the legislation referred to should be made to HMSO and not to the inquiry points given in the notices.

EEC information

Free service for businessmen!
The EEC Information Unit helps firms of all types and sizes by answering general questions about EEC membership and by guiding them where necessary to more specialised information sources.
New customers are always welcome, particularly firms new to EEC questions.
The unit's address is: EEC Information Unit, Department of Industry, 1 Victoria Street, London, SW1H 0ET. Tel. 01-215 4301 (six lines).

Community patent – one-day conference

Edward Armitage, Comptroller of the Patent Office, gives a paper on the working of the community patent at a one-day community patent conference organised jointly by the CBI and the Trade Marks Federation on 12 February. Next to him is Mr. C. G. Wickham, chairman of the CBI's Industrial Property Panel, who chaired the morning session. Other papers were given by Mr. M. J. Quinn (seated right), Controller of the Patent Office in Dublin ('The view of a smaller member state'), Mr. J. M. Aubrey, General Manager Legal, Patent and Trade Marks Services, Courtaulds ('An industrial view'), and Dr. H. Aspden, Rapporteur ICC Commission for the International Protection of Industrial Property ('Protecting industrial property during transition').

OTAR helps exporters to EEC

If you export to EEC countries OTAR handouts on the following subjects may interest you:

Circulation certificates
Documentation – transit certificates
Invoicing requirements
Temporary suspensions of duty
Preferential trading arrangements between third countries and the Community
Labelling of products

Copies of these and other handouts can be obtained free of charge from the Department of Trade's OTAR section. OTAR helps exporters needing information about the tariff and other requirements of all overseas countries.

Telephone or write to:

Overseas Tariffs and Regulations Section (OTAR)
Export Services and Promotions Division

Department of Trade
Export House
50 Ludgate Hill
London EC4M 7HU
Tel. 01-248 5757, ext. 408/439/482
(EEC general inquiries)

Services to exporters

The following Government offices provide services for UK exporters:

Headquarters

Export Services and Promotions Division

Export House, 50 Ludgate Hill, London EC4M 7HU
Tel. 01-248 5757. Telex 886143 DTI EXPORT LDN

Regional

Scotland

Scottish Economic Planning Department
Industrial Development Division
314 St. Vincent Street, Glasgow G3 8XF
Tel. 041-248 2855. Telex 77583 SEPD GLASGOW

Inverness District Office

Caledonia House, 63/67 Academy Street, Inverness IV1 1LU
Tel. (0463) 30867

Wales

Welsh Office

Industry Department
Government Buildings, Gabalfa, Cardiff CF4 4YL
Tel. (0222) 62131. Telex 49267 INDUSTRY CARDIF

Yorkshire and Humberside Regional Office

Priestley House, 1 Park Row, Leeds LS1 5LF
Tel. (0532) 443171. Telex 557925/6 DTI LEEDS

Northern Regional Office

Wellbar House, Gallowgate, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE1 4TR
Tel. (0632) 27575. Telex 53178 DTI NTYNE

Cumbria District Office

Town Hall, Cockermouth, Cumbria CA13 9NP
Tel. (090-082) 3498/9. Telex 64173 DTI COCKERMOUTH

North-Western Regional Office

Sunley Building, Piccadilly Plaza, Manchester M1 4BA
Tel. 061-236 2171. Telex 667104 DTI MCHR

West-Midlands Regional Office

Ladywood House, Stephenson Street, Birmingham B2 4DT
Tel. 021-632 4111. Telex 337021 DTI BHAM

East-Midlands Regional Office

Cranbrook House, 47 Cranbrook Street, Nottingham NG1 1ES
Tel. (0602) 46121. Telex 37143 DTI NOTTM

South-Western Regional Office

The Pithay, Bristol BS1 2PB
Tel. (0272) 291071. Telex 44214 DTI BRISTOL

Northern Ireland Department of Commerce

Chichester House, 64 Chichester Street, Belfast BT1 4JX
Tel. (0232) 34488. Telex 747025 GOVNI BELFAST

Statistics

The economy: selected indicators

Series expressed as index numbers and seasonally adjusted except where shown otherwise

	Gross domestic product (average estimate)	Consumers' expenditure	Fixed capital expenditure			Changes in stocks				Balance of payments		
				of which			of which					
			Total	Manufacturing industry	Distributive and service industries	Total	Manufacturing industry	Wholesalers	Retailers	Current balance	Visible balance	Invisible balance
	at 1970 prices		at 1970 prices			at 1970 prices				at current prices		
Base of index	1970	1970	1970	1970	1970							
£m in base year		31,472	9,380	2,130	2,090							
Series in						£ million				£ million		
1970	100	100	100	100	100	450	325	68	−30	735	−12	747
1971	102	103	102	93	104	70	−148	52	−10	1,048	282	766
1972	104	109	104	82	117	−5	−175	48	−11	128	−690	818
1973	110	114	107	88	125	960	396	102	334	−835	−2,295	1,460
1974	110	114	105	98	113	553	666	81	−68	−3,666	−5,232	1,566
1975										−1,708	−3,232	1,524
1973 1st qtr.	110	115	109	86	130	353	166	37	51	−131	−335	204
2nd qtr.	109	113	104	83	118	274	88	3	185	−77	−402	325
3rd qtr.	110	116	107	92	120	155	46	29	47	−250	−616	366
4th qtr	109	115	107	89	132	178	96	32	51	−377	−942	565
1974 1st qtr	106	113	108	97	112	−174	−31	18	−59	−853	−1,280	427
2nd qtr.	110	112	100	96	110	274	191	43	27	−971	−1,359	388
3rd qtr.	112	114	103	97	119	359	368	3	−14	−873	−1,249	376
4th qtr.	111	115	107	101	113	94	139	17	−22	−969	−1,344	375
1975 1st qtr.	110	116	105	93	102	−171	−4	−31	−57	−413	−848	435
2nd qtr.	107	114	103	87	100	−288	−112	−54	−52	−340	−681	341
3rd qtr.	107	112	107	82	102	−157	−211	−25	60	−598	−986	388
4th qtr.										−357	−717	360 **
% change last 2 qtrs. on prev. 2 qtrs.	−3.0	−2.2	−1.2	−13.3	−6.4							
on a year earlier	−3.6	−0.3	+3.5	−12.7	−11.7							

	Industrial production		Personal expenditure		Prices and costs (NOT seasonally adjusted)					Labour (UK)			Trade	
	Total all industries	Total manufacturing industries	Retail sales	Cars: new registrations	Retail prices		Wholesale prices: all manufacturing industry		Basic hourly wage rates of manual workers (all industries and services)	Unemployed excluding school leavers and adult students		Unfilled vacancies for adults	Exports	Imports
						% increase on a year earlier	basic materials and fuel used	manufactured products: home sales*		mid-month count	% of total employees	mid-month count		
				monthly averages									On a balance of payments basis	
Base of index	1970	1970	1971		Jan. 1974		1970	1970	July 1972					
£m in base year			15,895											
Series in				thousands						thousands		thousands	£ million at current prices	
1971	100.5	99.7	100.0	108.5	153.4†	9.4	104.6	109.0	88.9	775.8	3.4	130.9	8,810	8,528
1972	102.6	102.4	105.8	138.6	164.3†	7.1	109.2	114.8	101.4	855.0	3.7	147.3	9,140	9,830
1973	110.3	110.9	110.7	137.1	179.4†	9.2	144.5	123.2	115.6	611.0	2.6	307.0	11,771	14,066
1974	106.3	107.8	109.9	102.8	108.5	16.0	215.3	152.0	138.7	600.3ø	2.6ø	302.7ø	15,888	21,120
1975	101.6	101.7	107.9	97.2	134.8	24.2	235.3 p	188.7 p	179.7 p	929.3	4.0	148.2ø	18,775	22,007
1974 1st qtr.	104.4	106.5	109.6	105	101.4	12.9	212.5	138.3	125.0	572.9	2.5	288.6	3,480	4,760
2nd qtr.	107.9	109.4	107.8	105	107.5	15.8	213.7	148.9	132.3	579.4	2.5	313.0	4,005	5,364
3rd qtr.	108.3	109.6	111.2	107	110.2	17.0	212.9	156.1	144.0	621.2	2.7	310.1	4,220	5,469
4th qtr.	104.8	105.7	111.3	97	115.1	18.2	222.1	164.9	153.5	..	..	..	4,183	5,527
1975 1st qtr.	104.8	106.1	111.3	108	122.0	20.3	220.9	176.0	163.6	733.3	3.2	..	4,527	5,375
2nd qtr.	100.2	100.4	108.9	94	133.6	24.3	225.6	186.3	176.3	849.7	3.7	159.8	4,475	5,156
3rd qtr.	100 0	100.1	105.5	103	139.4	26.6	239.3	193.4	185.4	1008.5	4.3	135.2	4,645	5,631
4th qtr.	101.2	100.7	105.8	84	144.2	25.3	255.4 p	199.1 p	193.6 p	1125.6	4.8	119.4 p	5,128	5,845
1975 Jan.	105.5	107.7	112.8	117	119.9	19.9	222.1	173.0	159.8	709.0e	3.0 e	..	1,507	1,911
Feb.	105.2	106.9	111.6	109	121.9	19.9	218.8	175.9	162.0	736.7	3.2	196.3	1,479	1,811
Mar.	103.6	103.8	109.5	97	124.3	21.2	221.9	179.2	169.0	754.1	3.2	189.7	1,541	1,653
Apr.	101.5	101.7	120.0	95	129.1	21 7	222.9	182.5	170.1	794.2	3.4	176.5	1,378	1,728
May	99.4	99.4	103.7	95	134.5	25.0	226.2	187.3	176.4	853.5	3.7	158.6	1,609	1,692
June	99.7	100.0	104.1	91	137.1	26 1	227.7	189.0	182.5	901.4	3.9	144.4	1,488	1,736
July	100.6	100.9	105.4	91	138.5	26.3	233.2	191.7	184.7	976.5	4.2	131 6	1,574	1,950
Aug.	98.8	98.9	104.8	98	139.3	26.9	241.4	193.5	185.5	1008.8	4.3	136.7	1,489	1,890
Sept.	100 5	100.5	106.1	120	140.5	26.6	243.2	194.9	185.9	1040.1	4.5	137.4	1,582	1,791
Oct.	101.5	101.2	104.8	85	142.5	25.9	251.7 p	197.0	187.3	1088.5	4.7	126.2	1,732	1,955
Nov.	101.5	101.1	105.2	81	144.2	25.2	256.2 p	198.9	195.4	1125.3	4.8	117.3	1,641	1,926
Dec.	100.6	99.8	107.0	87	146.0	24.9	258.4 p	201.5 p	198.0 p	1163.2	5.0	114.8	1,755	1,964
1976 Jan.			109 p	118 p	147.9	23.4	260.4 p	204.9 p		1205.5 p	5.2	109.2	1,785 p	1,964 p
% change latest 3 months on prev. 3 months	+1.2	+0.6	+1.7	−5.9	+3.7		+5.3	+3.4	+4.4	+11.4		−14.7	+8	+4
on a year earlier	−3.4	−4.7	−4.3	−7.4	+24.5		+15.9	+19.8	+26.1	..		..	+20	+4

p Provisional * After April 1973, affected by changes due to VAT † Base of index Jan. 1962 = 100 .. not available
ø Average of 11 months e Figure is estimate ** Figure is projection

Index of retail prices for January

The index of retail prices for all items for 13 January 1976 was 147.9 (15 January 1974 = 100). This represents an increase of 1.3 per cent on December 1975 (146.0) and of 23.4 per cent on January 1975 (119.9).

The rise in the index in January was due mainly to higher prices for potatoes, fresh fruit and vegetables, meat, bacon and alcoholic drink; to increases in motoring costs and to higher average charges for canteen and restaurant meals.

The movements for the main groups of the index are shown in Table 2.

Symbols used in all statistical tables

.. not available	r revised
— nil or less than half the final digit shown	* five week period
p provisional	• fifty-three week period

TABLE 1

	All items			All items except seasonal food		
	Index 15 January 1974 = 100	Percentage change over 1 month	Percentage change over 12 months	Index 15 January 1974 = 100	Percentage change over 1 month	Percentage change over 6 months
1975						
August	139.3	+0.6	+26.9	139.7	+0.9	+14.0
September	140.5	+0.9	+26.6	140.9	+0.9	+12.9
October	142.5	+1.4	+25.9	142.8	+1.3	+10.4
November	144.2	+1.2	+25.2	144.5	+1.2	+ 7.2
December	146.0	+1.2	+24.9	146.1	+1.1	+ 6.6
1976						
January	147.9	+1.3	+23.4	147.6	+1.0	+ 6.6

TABLE 2 General index of retail prices

	Indices (15 January 1974 = 100)		Percentage change over the month
	9 Dec. 1975	13 Jan. 1976	
All items	146.0	147.9	+1.3
All items excluding food	146.6	147.9	+0.9
Food	144.2	148.3	+2.8
Seasonal food	148.9	158.6	+6.5
Other food	143.9	146.6	+1.9
Alcoholic drink	146.6	149.0	+1.6
Tobacco	162.2	162.6	+0.2
Housing	134.2	134.8	+0.4
Fuel and light	166.8	168.7	+1.1
Durable household goods	141.3	140.8	−0.4
Clothing and footwear	131.4	131.5	+0.1
Transport and vehicles	156.0	157.0	+0.6
Miscellaneous goods	149.1	152.3	+2.1
Services	152.5	154.0	+1.0
Meals out	143.6	146.2	+1.8

Retailers' stocks in December 1975

Based on the non-seasonally adjusted data of Table 1, the level of stocks at book value in December was 20 per cent higher than a year ago, but at constant prices the level was unchanged.

The estimates of value of physical increase of retailer's stocks at 1970 prices and seasonally adjusted (Table 2) show a fall in stock levels in December. This fall comes after a period during which stocks were being rebuilt following the decline in the early part of the year, particularly in April when sales were very high.

Notes

1 The book value of retailers' stocks in the United Kingdom at end of December 1971 was £1,860 million.

2 With the introduction of VAT, the book values are being valued exclusive of this tax. There is, therefore, a discontinuity in the series in 1973 between March and April. For the year up to March, the usual comparisons with a year earlier for the book values series have not been given. As the basis of valuation is now comparable with that

TABLE 1 Level of retailers' stocks

Index numbers (end 1971 = 100) *and percentage increase on a year earlier* (At cost at end of month)

	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
At book values:												
1971	89	91	94	95	95	97	95	95	98	106	110	100
1972	96	98	101	102	102	104	101	102	104	113	119	106
1973	103	106	111	111	111	115	115	116	121	131	140	129
1974	126	127	133	137	142	143	143	142	148	161	171	154
1975	148	151	159	155	160	163	162	163	173	191	205	185
1972	7	8	8	6	7	8	7	7	7	7	8	6
1973	7	8	9	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1974	—	—	—	24	28	24	24	22	23	22	22	20
1975	18	19	20	13	13	14	14	14	17	19	20	20
At constant (1970) prices:												
1971	95	97	99	99	98	99	96	96	99	107	111	100
1972	95	97	99	100	100	102	98	98	100	107	112	99
1973	96	99	103	108	111	114	112	112	116	124	131	120
1974	113	112	116	117	118	118	116	114	116	124	129	115
1975	108	109	112	107	109	109	108	107	112	122	130	116
1972	—	—	—	1	2	2	2	2	1	—	1	−1
1973	1	2	4	9	11	13	15	14	17	16	17	20
1974	18	14	13	8	6	3	3	1	—	—	−1	−3
1975	−5	−3	−4	−8	−8	−7	−7	−6	−4	−1	—	—

TABLE 2 Value of physical increase of retailers' stocks at 1970 prices

Seasonally adjusted £ million

	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
1971	−14	−1	−17	2	−18	16	−8	4	12	18	−8	4
1972	−9	3	−12	9	4	20	−16	12	−12	8	8	−26
1973	26	16	9	88	55	42	18	8	21	5	23	23
1974	−7	−54	2	14	25	−12	18	−29	−3	−5	1	−18
1975	−27	−24	−6	−83	35	−4	19	—	41	34	36	−15

See note 2.

of a year earlier these percentages changes have been re-introduced. The estimates at constant prices take account of this method of valuation, and are on a consistent basis throughout.

3 For the estimates at constant prices, it should be borne in mind that, when price increases are large, the various problems associated with revaluation of the value series to constant prices become more acute. Thus, the relative accuracy with which constant price changes have been measured is likely to have been reduced in recent periods.

4 The statistics given in Table 2 were introduced in an article in the issue of 28 March 1975.

5 Long-run series back to 1966 for both Table 1 and Table 2 were included in the article in the issue of 26 September 1975.

Retail sales – provisional estimates for January

Volume

The *provisional* estimate of the seasonally adjusted index of the volume of retail sales in January is 109 (1971 = 100).

The estimate suggests a rather higher level of trade than in recent months which may have been influenced by comparatively buoyant annual 'sales' and by the easing of certain restrictions on credit in the middle of December. These factors may also have affected trade in December.

Due mainly to the higher levels of trade in December and January, the volume of sales in the three months November to January was 1½ per cent above the level of the previous three months, but was still 4 per cent below the average level reached in the fourth quarter of 1974 and the first quarter of 1975.

Value

Based on non-seasonally adjusted data, the *provisional* estimate of the value of total retail sales in January was 16 per cent higher than in January 1975.

	Retail sales: volume Seasonally adjusted index (1971 = 100)			Retail sales: value Not seasonally adjusted – Percentage change compared with a year earlier	
1974	1st quarter	109.6	1974	1st quarter	+11
	2nd quarter	107.8		2nd quarter	+15
	3rd quarter	111.2		3rd quarter	+18
	4th quarter	111.3		4th quarter	+18
1975	1st quarter	111.3	1975	1st quarter	+22
	2nd quarter	108.9		2nd quarter	+24
	3rd quarter	105.5		3rd quarter	+18
	4th quarter	105.8		4th quarter	+15
1974	October	111.3	1974	October	+18
	November	112.3		November	+19
	December	110.5		December	+17
1975	January	112.8	1975	January	+22
1975	October	104.8	1975	October	+15
	November	105.2		November	+16
	December	107.0		December	+15
1976	January	109 (prov.)	1976	January	+16 (prov.)

Notes

The volume index is given to the nearest ½ per cent. The percentage increase in value compared with a year earlier is given to the nearest whole number.

A detailed note on the method of computation of the provisional estimates was published in *Trade and Industry* on 21 February 1974.

When using the volume figures, it should be borne in mind that, when price increases are large, the various problems associated with revaluation of the value series to constant prices become more acute. Thus, the relative accuracy with which volume changes have been measured is likely to have been reduced in recent periods.

The seasonally adjusted series include, where appropriate, adjustments to make allowance for the inclusion of an extra week in the January 1975 trading period. No adjustments are made to the non-seasonally adjusted data.

The provisional figures are made available by press notice in advance of this article. The final figures for January will be published in a press notice on Monday, 8 March 1976.

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Index of retail sales in Northern Ireland in November

The seasonally adjusted index of retail sales in Northern Ireland for November was 231 (1965 = 100), 25 per cent more than in November 1974.

After allowing for price changes, the total volume of sales in November showed an increase of 2 per cent compared with the corresponding period last year.

The seasonally adjusted index numbers of the value of sales in November and percentage increases on a year earlier for the main groups of traders are shown below. More detailed information can be obtained from the Department of Commerce, Index of Retail Sales, 21 Linenhall Street, Belfast BT2 8BZ (tel. Belfast (0232) 28081, ext. 140).

		November 1975	
Sales by	Sales in 1965 – £m	Seasonally adjusted value index numbers 1965 = 100	Percentage increases
All kinds of business	219	231	25
Food shops	97	239	21
Non-food shops	122	225	29
Of which:			
Clothing and footwear shops	36	195	26
Durable goods shops	21	198	14
Miscellaneous non-food shops	43	275	35
Department and general stores	22	204	38

Turnover of the motor trades in the fourth quarter of 1975

The total turnover of the motor trades in the fourth quarter of 1975 was 10 per cent more than in the fourth quarter of 1974. In the year 1975 as a whole the increase in total turnover, compared with 1974, was 19 per cent.

New vehicle sales in the fourth quarter of 1975 were the same as in the fourth quarter of 1974. On the same comparison used vehicle sales were 23 per cent higher and other sales and receipts (which include sales of petrol, oil, tyres, spares and accessories, and receipts from servicing and repairs) rose by 14 per cent.

Notes

The statistics are of turnover at current prices. Movements therefore include the effect of price changes, including changes in purchase tax before the second quarter of 1973, the introduction of VAT and car tax from the second quarter of 1973, the introduction of VAT on petrol from the second quarter of 1974, and subsequent changes in the rates of VAT. The turnover includes transactions between dealers in addition to final sales. Vehicles include commercial vehicles as well as private cars and motor cycles.

The figures are *not* seasonally adjusted.

The returns made by a voluntary panel are used to project the figures of turnover in a base year (now 1972) obtained in a comprehensive inquiry to motor traders.

Index numbers of turnover per quarter at current prices (including purchase tax or VAT and car tax)

Percentage change compared with a year earlier in brackets [1972 = 100]

	Total turnover	New vehicle sales	Used vehicle sales	Other sales
Turnover in 1972 (£ million)	(8,109)	(3,089)	(1,373)	(3,647)
1972	100	100	100	100
1973	111 (+11)	110 (+10)	102 (+ 2)	115 (+15)
1974	119 (+ 7)	106 (− 3)	100 (− 2)	137 (+19)
1975	141 (+19)	120 (+13)	126 (+26)	165 (+20)
1972 1st quarter	95	94	100	93
2nd quarter	105	109	107	101
3rd quarter	102	101	103	104
4th quarter	98	96	90	102
1973 1st quarter	117 (+23)	126 (+34)	119 (+18)	109 (+17)
2nd quarter	110 (+ 5)	110 (+ 1)	103 (− 3)	113 (+12)
3rd quarter	114 (+12)	111 (+10)	108 (+ 5)	119 (+15)
4th quarter	102 (+ 4)	93 (− 3)	80 (−12)	118 (+16)
1974 1st quarter	108 (− 8)	102 (−20)	87 (−27)	120 (+10)
2nd quarter	122 (+11)	112 (+ 2)	106 (+ 3)	136 (+20)
3rd quarter	126 (+11)	110 (− 1)	111 (+ 3)	146 (+22)
4th quarter	121 (+18)	102 (+10)	95 (+20)	147 (+24)
1975 1st quarter	137 (+27)	127 (+25)	116 (+33)	152 +(27)
2nd quarter	145 (+19)	123 (+10)	132 (+24)	168 +(23)
3rd quarter	151 (+19)	128 (+17)	139 (+25)	175 +(20)
4th quarter	133 (+10)	101 (0)	117 (+23)	167 +(14)

Index of industrial production for December 1975

Latest estimates continue to suggest that, after the sharp decline earlier in the year, industrial output has now at least levelled out.

The provisional estimate for the total index in December 1975 is 100.6 and for manufacturing alone the estimate is 99.8 (1970 = 100). The slight falls in December probably reflect in part the changing holiday patterns at the end of the year. The introduction of a public holiday on New Year's Day seems to have led to more closures of industrial plant in the last week of December and the seasonal adjustment process may not fully reflect this changing pattern.

It is provisionally estimated that the average level of the all-industries' index in the fourth quarter was 1 per cent above its level in the previous quarter; over the same period the average level of the index for manufacturing industry increased by ½ per cent. A market sector analysis shows that intermediate goods industries' output rose sharply in the period while the output of consumer goods and investment goods industries fell slightly.

On a longer-term comparison, the all-industries' index in the latest three months was about 3½ per cent below its level in the fourth quarter of 1974; the corresponding fall for manufacturing industry was about 5 per cent.

Many of the series used in compiling the index of production, in particular for manufacturing industry, measure deliveries rather than production. Deliveries and production in a month may differ because of movements in stocks of finished goods and work in progress. The use of such series resulted in the all-industries' index understating the level of output by about ¼ per cent in the first quarter and overstating the level of output in the second and third quarters by about ½ per cent and about ¾ per cent respectively. Provisional evidence for October and November suggests that some overstatement in the level of output on this account has continued in the fourth quarter.

About two-thirds of the index of production is derived by the revaluation to the prices of 1970 of data expressed at current prices. When the rate of change of prices is relatively large, or itself changes rapidly, the problems associated with this revaluation become more acute. For this reason the estimates for periods shown in this article and in the table should be regarded as subject to wider margins of error than those for earlier years.

The table is on the following page.

New companies registered

The following corrections should be made to the details of new companies registered in December 1975 published on page 472 of *Trade and Industry* for 13 February 1976.

1 For 28,881 in total column of amount of nominal capital read 27,881.

2 Against the figures of 3,478 and 22,419 in the March 1975 columns insert an asterisk and add a footnote * corrected figures.

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Index of industrial production (see page 535)

Seasonally adjusted — 1970 = 100

	Total all industries	Mining and quarrying	Manufacturing industries												
			Total	Food, drink and tobacco					Engineering and allied industries						
				Total	Food	Drink and tobacco	Coal and petroleum products	Chemicals and allied industries	Total	Mechanical engineering	Instrument engineering	Electrical engineering	Shipbuilding and marine engineering	Total vehicles	Metal goods n.e.s.
Weights	1,000	37	745	84	52	32	7	58	319	100	15	67	16	73	48
1971	100.5	99.7	99.7	100.6	99.9	101.7	103.4	102.1	99.4	100.1	100.8	102.6	96.6	99.4	93.6
1972	102.6	84.0	102.4	105.0	104.2	106.4	102.6	108.1	100.0	95.0	93.0	110.2	91.8	103.7	95.7
1973	110.3	93.6	110.9	109.4	106.4	114.2	110.0	121.5	107.9	103.7	101.7	125.2	95.1	105.1	103.1
1974	106.3	82.1	107.8	110.1	105.0	118.7	106.1	127.6	105.6	103.4	104.9	120.6	99.4	98.6	102.4
1975	101.5	90.1	101.7	110.1	104.2	119.8	92.5	116.8	101.3	102.2	101.9	113.5	103.5	94.5	92.0
1974 1st qtr.	104.4	56.8	106.5	113.3	108.3	121.4	102.2	125.7	102.6	100.8	100.7	119.0	97.3	92.6	101.1
2nd qtr.	107.9	89.5	109.4	109.5	105.8	115.5	112.0	128.2	106.6	104.0	106.5	120.0	98.0	100.4	105.4
3rd qtr.	108.3	90.8	109.6	109.7	104.8	117.8	104.6	131.7	107.9	104.5	106.0	124.6	100.3	102.2	103.3
4th qtr.	104.8	91.1	105.7	108.1	100.9	120.0	105.6	124.7	105.5	104.3	106.5	118.9	102.0	99.1	99.8
1975 1st qtr.	104.8	90.9	106.1	110.2	103.9	120.4	94.5	118.2	106.8	105.6	105.0	120.0	103.1	101.7	100.5
2nd qtr.	100.2	88.2	100.4	108.5	102.9	117.7	92.5	112.5	101.1	104.4	106.0	112.8	103.2	91.3	90.2
3rd qtr.	100.0	87.9	100.1	111.4	105.4	121.3	92.6	115.7	99.5	100.7	100.1	111.1	102.9	93.9	87.7
4th qtr.	101.2	93.2	100.7	110.8	105.2	119.9	90.7	121.0	99.0	99.5	97.2	111.6	104.7	91.8	89.8
1975 Jan.	105.5	89	107.7	113	105	126	101	123	108	106	106	121	104	106	103
Feb.	105.2	91	106.9	110	104	120	94	121	107	106	105	120	103	102	99
Mar.	103.6	93	103.8	108	103	115	89	112	105	106	104	119	103	97	100
Apr.	101.5	91	101.7	107	100	120	91	115	103	105	107	115	103	97	92
May	99.4	88	99.4	108	104	115	96	109	99	104	106	113	103	85	89
Jun.	99.7	86	100.0	110	105	119	90	113	100	104	105	111	104	91	89
Jul.	100.6	87	100.9	111	106	121	88	115	101	102	101	111	103	98	90
Aug.	98.8	88	98.9	110	104	118	96	112	99	100	100	111	103	92	86
Sept.	100.5	88	100.5	113	106	125	94	120	99	100	99	111	102	92	87
Oct.	101.5	92	101.2	111	105	120	94	120	99	100	99	111	106	91	92
Nov.	101.5	94	101.1	110	105	119	86	119	100	100	96	111	104	94	91
Dec.	100.6	93	99.8	111	105	120	92	124	98	99	97	113	104	91	86
% change latest 3 months on previous 3 months	+1.2	+6.0	+0.6	−0.5	−0.3	−1.4	−2.2	+4.6	−0.5	−1.0	−2.7	+0.6	+1.9	−2.1	+2.3
% change latest 3 months on a year earlier	−3.4	+2.3	−4.7	+2.4	+4.2	—	−14.1	−3.0	−6.2	−4.6	−8.8	−6.1	+2.7	−7.4	−10.1

	Manufacturing industries (continued)												Construction	Gas, electricity and water
	Metal manufacture			Textiles, leather and clothing				Bricks, pottery, glass, etc.						
	Total	Ferrous	Non-ferrous	Total	Textiles	Leather, leather goods and fur	Clothing and footwear	Total	Bricks, cement, etc.	Pottery and glass	Timber, furniture, etc.	Paper, printing and publishing	Other manufacturing industries		
Weights	57	43	14	76	49	3	24	27	17	10	22	64	31	146	72
1971	91.3	89.8	95.8	102.3	100.7	103.0	105.4	107.7	106.3	109.8	103.0	97.3	99.7	102.9	103.9
1972	91.4	89.4	97.3	104.6	103.1	104.5	107.8	114.2	113.6	115.3	113.5	102.6	104.2	104.5	111.2
1973	100.0	97.3	108.5	110.1	108.6	101.0	114.6	127.9	126.8	129.5	132.6	112.1	116.5	107.6	118.1
1974	91.7	87.7	104.2	103.1	99.2	96.3	112.2	117.4	109.7	129.3	112.4	108.8	114.3	98.4	119.7
1975	78.7	74.7	91.0	99.5	93.9	87.7	112.6	108.1	103.5	115.2	110.0	95.9	105.0		119.2
1974 1st qtr.	91.0	86.3	105.4	100.3	98.1	96.8	105.3	118.7	109.5	133.1	117.7	108.8	112.7	102.3	111.9
2nd qtr.	91.5	86.5	107.1	107.5	104.9	100.0	113.8	120.4	113.7	130.9	116.6	112.4	118.5	99.4	119.2
3rd qtr.	95.0	91.7	105.3	105.2	100.9	95.0	115.4	117.3	110.7	127.6	110.7	109.9	117.3	98.4	123.8
4th qtr.	89.4	86.3	99.0	99.6	93.0	93.3	114.2	113.0	104.9	125.6	104.8	104.1	108.6	93.7	124.1
1975 1st qtr.	91.5	89.5	97.7	101.1	94.6	89.3	115.9	112.9	104.8	125.5	110.6	100.2	110.4	93.9	119.8
2nd qtr.	73.3	68.3	88.8	99.6	95.1	91.5	109.9	104.5	99.7	112.2	111.1	95.8	100.5	93.0	119.3
3rd qtr.	71.3	66.0	87.7	100.1	93.5	84.5	115.9	104.5	102.3	108.0	108.0	93.3	105.7	95.1	114.9
4th qtr.	78.1	74.3	89.9	97.4	92.7	85.0	109.0	110.4	107.5	114.8	110.3	94.3	103.6		122.5
1975 Jan.	91	87	105	102	94	89	119	113	107	123	111	100	114		114
Feb.	95	95	95	101	95	89	116	115	106	128	112	102	113		118
Mar.	88	87	93	100	94	89	113	111	101	126	109	98	104		127
Apr.	80	76	92	97	94	91	106	106	100	115	111	97	98		122
May	70	66	85	100	96	91	111	105	99	115	111	97	100		118
Jun.	70	63	90	101	96	91	113	103	101	106	112	93	103		117
Jul.	72	66	91	101	94	85	117	101	102	100	110	95	105		116
Aug.	73	69	87	100	94	84	115	103	96	113	107	92	98		112
Sept.	69	64	85	100	93	84	116	110	109	111	107	92	114		117
Oct.	80	76	91	99	93	85	112	110	108	114	111	95	107		122
Nov.	80	77	90	99	95	86	108	110	107	114	112	94	105		122
Dec.	75	71	89	95	90	84	107	111	107	116	108	94	99		123
% change latest 3 months on previous 3 months	+9.5	+12.6	+2.7	−2.7	−1.1	+0.8	−6.0	+5.4	+4.9	+6.2	+2.2	+1.4	−1.9		+6.6
% change latest 3 months on a year earlier	−12.6	−13.9	−9.2	−2.2	−0.3	−8.9	−4.6	−2.3	+2.4	−8.6	+5.2	−9.4	−4.6		−1.3

Metal working machine tools: Monthly analysis of sales and orders for September and October 1975

This article presents in Table 1 provisional statistics of manufacturers' sales and orders for metal working machine tools up to October of last year, These monthly values of sales and orders will also be published in Business Monitor PM 332.

The monthly and quarterly estimates covering the whole of the year 1974 and the first three months of 1975 have now been adjusted in accordance with the results of the more comprehensive quarterly inquiry published in Business Monitor PQ 332 now available for the first quarter 1975. The latest provisional estimates for April-October of 1975 will be similarly revised when the appropriate information becomes available.

Summary

Provisional monthly statistics now available up to October of last year show a partial recovery in sales after some fall in the middle of 1975. The overall level of sales in the three months up to October actually showed an increase of 11 per cent on the previous three months, and new orders also showed an increase of 3 per cent. Being in current value terms, however, these changes probably reflect a moderate increase in the volume of sales but no increase in the volume of new orders. Orders-on-hand have continued to fall each month. They are now 27 per cent lower than a year ago, and are becoming too low to sustain present rates of delivery indefinitely.

Recent trends for machine tools

The latest monthly statistics now available for September and October show that the level of total sales, which had fallen earlier in the year, has recovered somewhat in terms of current values. The three months August-October show an increase of 11 per cent on the previous three months, with home and export sales rising by 6 per cent and 17 per cent respectively. Total sales for August-October at £75 million also showed an increase of 11 per cent over the same period in 1974, although the slight fall in home sales of 2 per cent in current values over the corresponding period in 1974 clearly points to a fall in actual volume of sales at home. Export sales were 29 per cent higher than in the same period a year earlier, although an appreciable part of this increase must be attributed to the steep rise in price of machine tools.

The downward phase in the machine tools cycle reflects the continuing weakness of industrial investment in this country and the slowness of the recovery of overseas markets. New orders received (net cancellations) from home and abroad continued to decline

TABLE 1 Metal working machine tools: orders and sales

£ million

	Sales			Orders outstanding*			New orders		
	Total	Home	Export	Total	Home	Export	Total	Home	Export
1966	164.0	118.9	45.1	110.7	78.0	32.7	160.1	114.1	46.0
1967	171.2	123.9	47.3	100.9	54.1	46.8	161.4	100.0	61.4
1968	168.5	113.5	55.1	116.1	61.7	54.4	183.8	121.1	62.7
1969	189.1	119.1	70.0	164.2	93.3	70.9	237.2	150.7	86.5
1970	218.6	137.3	81.3	159.2	86.8	72.7	213.9	130.8	83.1
1971	207.7	121.7	86.0	106.0	46.0	60.0	154.2	80.9	73.3
1972	184.7	111.6	73.1	113.3	55.7	57.6	192.0	121.3	70.7
1973	213.2	125.5	87.7	207.0	118.0	89.0	306.9	187.8	119.1
1974	251.0	148.2	102.8	263.7	134.5	129.2	307.7	164.7	143.0
1974 1st quarter r	55.1	34.1	21.0	232.5	126.5	106.0	80.6	42.6	38.0
2nd quarter r	56.1	33.0	23.1	263.3	139.7	123.6	86.9	46.2	40.7
3rd quarter r	63.5	38.4	25.1	276.1	143.3	132.8	76.3	42.0	34.3
4th quarter r	76.3	42.7	33.6	263.7	134.5	129.2	63.9	33.9	30.0
1975 1st quarter r	79.6	47.7	31.9	239.3	114.9	124.4	55.2	28.1	27.1
2nd quarter p	70.4	39.7	30.7	228.9	110.2	118.7	60.0	35.0	25.0
3rd quarter p	70.5	35.6	34.9	208.6	100.3	108.3	50.2	25.7	24.5
1974 January r	15.0	9.3	5.7	215.4	120.2	95.2	23.4	11.5	11.9
February r	18.1	10.7	7.4	227.5	124.8	102.7	30.2	15.3	14.9
March r	22.0	14.1	7.9	232.5	126.5	106.0	27.0	15.8	11.2
April r	16.6	9.8	6.8	245.8	129.7	116.1	29.9	13.0	16.9
May r	20.2	12.1	8.1	255.3	136.3	119.0	29.7	18.7	11.0
June r	19.3	11.1	8.2	263.3	139.7	123.6	27.3	14.5	12.8
July r	23.2	13.8	9.4	269.1	140.2	128.9	29.0	14.3	14.7
August r	18.0	11.1	6.9	273.9	142.8	131.1	22.8	13.7	9.1
September r	22.3	13.5	8.8	276.1	143.3	132.8	24.5	14.0	10.5
October r	27.7	15.1	12.6	273.4	142.3	131.1	25.0	14.1	10.9
November r	27.7	15.9	11.8	267.2	139.6	127.6	21.5	13.2	8.3
December r	20.9	11.7	9.2	263.7	134.5	129.2	17.4	6.6	10.8
1975 January r	22.2	13.1	9.1	262.7	133.0	129.7	21.2	9.6	11.6
February r	27.2	16.3	10.9	252.7	124.4	128.3	17.2	10.2	7.0
March r	30.2	18.3	11.9	239.3	114.9	124.4	16.8	8.3	8.5
April p	24.4	13.4	11.0	239.0	114.2	124.8	24.1	12.7	11.4
May p	24.7	14.0	10.7	236.1	113.7	122.4	21.8	13.5	8.3
June p	21.3	12.3	9.0	228.9	110.2	118.7	14.1	8.8	5.3
July p	22.0	10.5	11.5	222.6	108.2	114.4	15.7	8.5	7.2
August p	21.2	11.6	9.6	220.1	106.5	113.6	18.7	9.9	8.8
September p	27.3	13.5	13.8	208.6	100.3	108.3	15.8	7.3	8.5
October p	26.9	13.8	13.1	200.2	99.2	101.0	18.5	12.7	5.8
Three monthly totals									
August 1975-October 1975	75.4	38.9	36.5	200.2	99.2	101.0	53.0	29.9	23.1
May 1975-July 1975	68.0	36.8	31.2	222.6	108.2	114.4	51.6	30.8	20.8
August 1974-October 1974	68.0	39.7	28.3	273.4	142.3	131.1	72.3	41.8	30.5
Percentage change latest three months on:									
1. Previous three months	+11	+6	+17	−10	−8	−12	+3	−3	+11
2. A year earlier	+11	−2	+29	−27	−30	−23	−27	−28	−24

r = revised.
p = provisional.
* The values for orders outstanding relate to the ends of the periods shown.
Due to rounding, constituent figures may not sum to their respective totals.

from the peak intake of the second quarter of 1974; at £50 million for the third quarter 1975, this is the lowest level since the second quarter of 1972. The inflow of total orders in the most recent three months showed a slight improvement of some 3 per cent on the previous three months at current values. New orders arriving from the overseas sector showed a moderate recovery, increasing by 11 per cent over the previous three months but were still generally weak, while new orders originating from the home market were down by 3 per cent.

The rate of new orders received continues to fall below the amount of sales, by 33 per cent in total during August-October, and this has depleted total orders-on-hand, which at the end of October were 10 per cent below the level of the previous three months and 27 per cent below the corresponding period in 1974. With new orders continuing significantly below sales, present order books could only sustain the present level of industry activity for the next half year or so, and no doubt certain producers will be less favourably placed than others.

Steel consumption and stocks in the fourth quarter of 1975

Consumption

Consumption of finished steel in the fourth quarter of 1975 is provisionally estimated to have been 3.75 million tonnes (5.05 million tonnes ingot equivalent) seasonally adjusted, a slight increase over each of the two previous quarters.

Deliveries

The provisional level of delivery from UK producers to consumers and stockholders is estimated at 2.81 million tonnes; imports were 0.79 million tonnes. Stockholders are estimated to have reduced their stocks slightly during the quarter and total deliveries to consumers and stockholders are estimated to have been 3.62 million tonnes.

Stocks

Consumers are estimated to have reduced their stocks by 0.13 million tonnes. This added to the deliveries to consumers of 3.62 million tonnes gives the estimated consumption of 3.75 million tonnes. The reduction of 0.02 million tonnes in stocks held by stockholders produced a fall of 0.15 million tonnes in the combined stocks held by consumers and stockholders.

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The Annual Census of Production Reports (the PA series of Monitors), and the 1971 Census of Distribution Reports (which are being published as Monitors SD 10 to SD 23, though not all are yet available) can be obtained on standing order from Her Majesty's Stationery Office, PO Box 569, London SE1 9NH, or can be purchased separately from the Government Bookshops or through booksellers.

Registrations of British, Community and foreign films

The following are details of films registered by the Department of Trade under the Films Acts 1960 to 1970, as amended by the European Communities Act 1972, during the week ended Friday, 13 February 1976.
BR/E indicates that the film is a British quota film, EC that the film is a quota film. The date which forms part of the registration number of each is the date on which quota life of the film expires.

Title of film	Registered no.	Playing time minutes	Date of registration	Registered in the name of	Maker's name
			BRITISH		
The Price Of Peace	BR/E 38450/14/2/81	34	12 February	Fox-Rank Distributors Ltd.	Gauntlet Film Productions Ltd.
Movietone News 2436	BR/E 38344/14/2/81	8	13 February	British Movietonews Ltd.	British Movietonews Ltd.
			FOREIGN		
Cleopatra Jones And The Casino of Gold	F 38448	96	12 February	Columbia-Warner Distributors Ltd.	Shaw Brothers (Hong Kong) Ltd. and Warner Brothers Inc., California
Aloha Bobby And Rose	F 38449	89	12 February	Columbia-Warner Distributors Ltd.	Product Inc., California

Sales in the carpet industry in December

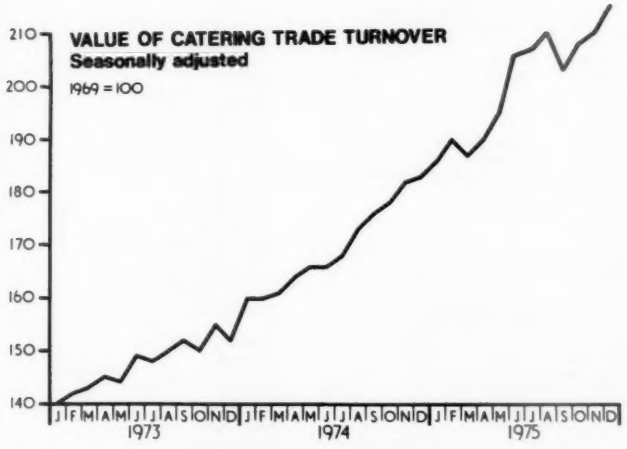
The daily rate of manufacturers' sales by value in December 1975 at current prices was provisionally estimated to have been 13 per cent more than in December 1974, assuming 20 working days in December 1974 and 21 working days in December 1975. In the three months ended December 1975, the daily rate of manufacturers' sales was provisionally estimated to have been 20 per cent more than in the corresponding period 12 months ago, assuming 64 working days in both periods. The index numbers, which are of manufacturers' sales by value, have been adjusted for the length of the working month, but not for non-statutory holidays or other seasonal factors. The Wholesale Price Index of carpets is shown as a guide to the movement in prices.

1970 = 100

		Index of manufacturers' sales at current prices	Wholesale price index
1969		93	96.6
1970		100	100.0
1971		115	104.9
1972		135	111.7
1973		166	130.2
1974		179	153.1
1975		202	177.8
1974	Quarter ended December	202	161.5
1975	Quarter ended March	190	169.5
	Quarter ended June	194	171.2
	Quarter ended September	180	180.2
	Quarter ended December	242	190.5
1974	September	184	160.2
	October	196	160.9
	November	218	160.9
	December	192	162.9
1975	September	198	181.7
	October	232	189.0
	November	279	190.1*
	December	218	192.4*

* Provisional.

Turnover of the catering trades in December 1975



Catering turnover in December, at current prices and after seasonal adjustment, continued the upward trend of recent months.

The total turnover of the catering trades (again, at current prices and after allowing for normal seasonal adjustments) in the fourth quarter of 1975 was about 3 per cent more than in the third quarter, which included two months of exceptionally good trading conditions. In the year as a whole the increase in turnover, compared with 1974, was 18 per cent.

Recent percentage increases compared with a year earlier (*not* seasonally adjusted) for the main kinds of business are as follows:

		All caterers	Licensed hotels and holiday camps	Restaurants, cafes and fish and chip shops	Public houses	Canteens
1975	Year	18	16	13	21	16
	3rd quarter	20	17	14	24	17
	4th quarter	17	14	13	20	13
	December	18	11	16	21	13

Turnover for all caterers in the fourth quarter of 1975 was 17 per cent more than in the same quarter of 1974. The largest increase was of 20 per cent for public houses (the largest component of the all-caterers index). Licensed hotels and holiday camps reported an increase of 14 per cent, whilst restaurants, cafes and fish and chip shops, and canteens, showed increases of 13 per cent.

TABLE 1 Turnover of all caterers seasonally adjusted

Index numbers of turnover per week† 1969 = 100

		Value at current prices (turnover in 1969 – £2,533 million)
1969		100
1970		108
1971		118
1972		131
1973		148
1974		170
1975		201
1972	1st quarter	125
	2nd quarter	128
	3rd quarter	133
	4th quarter	138
1973	1st quarter	142
	2nd quarter	146
	3rd quarter	150
	4th quarter	152
1974	1st quarter	160
	2nd quarter	165
	3rd quarter	173
	4th quarter	181
1975	1st quarter	188
	2nd quarter	198
	3rd quarter	206
	4th quarter	212
1975	January*	187
	February	190
	March*	188
	April	191
	May	195
	June*	206
	July	207
	August	210
	September*	203
	October	208
	November	210
	December*	216
1975	July-September	206
1975	October-December	212
Percentage increase		3

† The monthly periods consist of four weeks except those marked * which are of five weeks. The December 1975 period was the five weeks from 30 November 1975 to 3 January 1976; the December 1974 period was five weeks from 24 November 1974 to 28 December 1974. The series are provisionally rebased using the broad results of the large scale inquiry into the catering trades for 1969. The detailed results of this inquiry will be incorporated in a final rebasing in due course. A full report on the 1969 inquiry was published in November 1972 under the title 'Catering Trades 1969: Statistical Inquiry' (HMSO, 32p net).

Bankruptcy records for England and Wales

Details of bankruptcies in England and Wales are maintained in a public search room at Room 901, Thomas More Building, Royal Court of Justice, Strand, London WC2A 2JY.

Searches can be made personally or by an agent and a fee of 25p in respect of each bankruptcy inquiry is payable at the time.

Regional Development Grant payments

The following table lists the companies which have received one or more payments of Regional Development Grant of over £25,000 in the quarter ended 30 September 1975. The table is drawn up on a regional basis according to the locations of the premises in respect of which the grants were paid. The amounts shown against each premises are in some cases individual payments and in some cases the total of a number of separate payments each individually exceeding £25,000.

In previous lists there was a separate table for grants given in respect of plant provided for use in a development area, but in this and future lists these payments will be integrated with the regional lists.

(Earlier lists appeared in *Trade and Industry* on 5 September, 19 September 1975 and 30 January 1976.)

Name of company	Place of premises	Grant (£ 000)
SOUTHWEST REGION		
Barclays Export and Finance Co. Ltd.	St. Austell	113
English Clays Lovering Pochin and Co. Ltd.	St. Austell	34
Modern Engineering (Bristol) Ltd.	Plymstock	31
Penryn Granite Ltd.	Penryn	53
Rank Radio International Ltd.	Plymouth	55
Rank Radio International Ltd.	Ernesettle	39
South Crofty Ltd.	Penruth	72
Spanboard Ltd.	South Molton	104
Western Excavating (ECC) Ltd.	St. Austell	237
Wheal Jane Ltd.	Truro	61
WEST MIDLANDS		
H and R Johnson-Richards Tiles Ltd.	Stoke-on-Trent	105
EAST MIDLANDS		
Plessey Telecommunications Ltd.	Beeston	27
Reed Corrugated Cases Ltd.	Langar	44
YORKSHIRE AND HUMBERSIDE		
Bradford Glass Co. Ltd.	Bradford	100
British Gypsum Ltd.	Leeds	30
British Steel Corporation	Rotherham	1,059
British Steel Corporation	Scunthorpe	1,072
British Sugar Corporation Ltd.	York	60
Bunzl Adhesive Materials Ltd.	Scarborough	77
Champion Assoc. Weavers Ltd.	Bradford	60
Gilchrist Brothers Ltd.	Leeds	42
Hickson and Welch Ltd.	Castleford	27
Ibstock Brick Nestell Ltd.	Wakefield	80
Ideal Standard Ltd.	Hull	25
Northern Strip Mining Ltd.	*'S'	96
Rank Precision Industries Ltd.	Leeds	30
Rugby Portland Cement Co. Ltd.	South Ferriby	46
Rugby Portland Cement Co. Ltd.	Barton-on-Humber	25
Rustcraft Greeting Cards (UK) Ltd.	Dewsbury	65
Yorkshire Chemicals Ltd.	Leeds	26
NORTH WEST		
Associated Lead Manufacturers Ltd.	Bootle	34
Barclays Export and Finance Co. Ltd.	Liverpool	103
Bass Ltd.	Runcorn	478
Bowaters United Kingdom Paper Co. Ltd.	Ellesmere Port	226
British American Tobacco Co. Ltd.	Liverpool	57
British Insulated Callender Cables Ltd.	Helsby	113
British Insulated Callender Cables Ltd.	Prescot	148
British Nuclear Fuels Ltd.	Capenhurst	299
British Sidac Ltd.	St. Helens	42
Bush Boake Allen Ltd.	Widnes	77
Cabot Carbon Ltd.	Ellesmere Port	32
Cadbury Schweppes Food Ltd.	Moreton	76
Cammell Laird Shipbuilders Ltd.	Birkenhead	252
Champion Sparking Plug Co. Ltd.	Upton	162
Cigarette Components Ltd.	Burnley	104
Co-operative Wholesale Society Ltd.	Crewe	150
Courtaulds Ltd.	Aintree	102
C. R. Massie	Liverpool	37
Crosfields Farm Foods (NW) Ltd.	Nantwich	38
Dart Industries Ltd. (Rexpak Division)	Golborne	33
Eric Bemrose Ltd.	Liverpool	125
Fibreglass Ltd.	St. Helens	188
Fisons Ltd.	Widnes	34
Ford Motor Co. Ltd.	Halewood	82
Geo. L. Scott and Co. Ltd.	Ellesmere Port	55
Graham and Brown Ltd.	Blackburn	37
Hawker Siddeley Aviation Ltd.	Bramhall	70
Higsons Brewery Ltd.	Liverpool	28
Hygena Ltd.	Kirkby	78
Imperial Chemical Industries Ltd.	Runcorn	157
Imperial Chemical Industries Ltd.	Widnes	59
Ingersoll Rand Co. Ltd.	Manchester	57
Ingersoll Rand Co. Ltd.	Wigan	159
I. M. S. Lycrete Ltd.	Birkenhead	32
John Dale Ltd.	Skelmersdale	113
Joseph Crosfield and Sons Ltd.	Warrington	50
Leonard Fairclough Ltd.	Swinton	32
Lever Brothers Ltd.	Port Sunlight	53
Lilly Industries Ltd.	Liverpool	112
Lloyds Leasing Ltd.	Ellesmere Port	171
Lubrizol Ltd.	Bromborough	87
Manchester City Council	Openshaw	27
Morgan Refractories Ltd.	Neston	30
North West Securities Ltd.	Widnes	134
Odex Racasan Ltd.	Ellesmere Port	66
Otis Elevator Co. Ltd.	Kirkby	33
Pilkington Brothers Ltd.	St. Helens	150
Proctor and Gamble Ltd.	Trafford Park	93
Redland Purle Ltd.	Ellesmere Port	90
Robert Watson and Co. (Constructional Engineers) Ltd.	Bolton	44
Rockware Glass Ltd.	St. Helens	80
R. T. Z. Extruders Ltd.	Widnes	52
Schweppes Ltd.	Aintree	40
Shell Research Ltd.	Ince – Chester	77
Shellstar Ltd.	Ince – Chester	32
Shell UK Ltd.	Ellesmere Port	220
Skelmersdale Development Corporation	Skelmersdale	133
U. G. Glass Containers Ltd.	St. Helens	36
Urenco (UK) Partnership	Wirral	429
Van Den Berghs and Jurgens Ltd.	Bromborough	124
Vauxhall Motors Ltd.	Ellesmere Port	38
Wellcome Foundation Ltd.	Crewe	35
Yorkshire Imperial Metals Ltd.	Kirkby	51
NORTHERN		
Albright and Wilson Ltd.	Whitehaven	181
Alcan (UK) Ltd.	Ashington	43
Amoco (UK) Ltd.	Consett	26
Armstrong Cork Co. Ltd.	Gateshead	133
Associated Co-operative Creameries Ltd.	Blaydon	149
Associated Elec Industries Ltd.	Birtley	25
Associated Lead Manufacturers Ltd.	Wallsend	34
Bakelite Xylonite Ltd.	Haltwhistle	35
BEC Plant Ltd.	*'S'	30
Birtley Mfg Ltd.	Newcastle upon Tyne	34
Black and Decker Ltd.	Spennymoor	49
Border Dairy Co. Ltd.	Carlisle	51
Bowater Scott Corporation Ltd.	Barrow-in-Furness	303
BP Trading Ltd.	Middlesbrough	724
Brentford Nylons Ltd.	Cramlington	34
British Chrome and Chemicals Ltd.	Stockton-on-Tees	57
British Nuclear Fuels Ltd.	Windscale	94
British Sidac Ltd.	Wigton	33
British Steel Corporation	Blanchard	30
British Steel Corporation	Carlisle	27
British Steel Corporation	Consett	272
British Steel Corporation	Middlesbrough	28
British Steel Corporation	Penrith	73
British Steel Corporation	Redcar	2,172
British Titan Products Co. Ltd.	Billingham	29
Capital Leasing Ltd.	Washington	43
Caterpillar Tractor Co. Ltd.	Birtley	26
Cleveland Bridge and Engineering Co. Ltd.	Middlesbrough	100
C. N. Print Ltd.	Workington	32
Courtaulds Ltd.	Durham	44
Cummins Engine Co. Ltd.	Darlington	63
Derek Crouch Construction Co. Ltd.	Morpeth	122
Derek Crouch Contractors Ltd.	Morpeth	29
Dunlop Ltd.	Washington	34
Ever Ready (GB) Ltd.	Newcastle upon Tyne	197
Excelsior Plastics Ltd.	Shildon	51
Ferranti Ltd.	Barrow-in-Furness	25
F. Hills and Co. Ltd.	Stockton-on-Tees	35
Formica Ltd.	North Shields	27
Furzebrook Knitting Co. Ltd.	Washington	30
George Wimpey and Co. Ltd.	*'S'	58
Gibson Mechanical Services Ltd.	Stockton	37
Glaxo Laboratories Ltd.	Bedlington	51
Glaxo Laboratories Ltd.	Ulverston	238
ICI Ltd.	Billingham	1,354
ICI Ltd.	Middlesbrough	1,446
Ingersoll Rand Co. Ltd.	Gateshead	52
John W. Pearson and Co. Ltd.	Middlesbrough	28
Kier Ltd.	Middlesbrough	64
Merck Sharp and Dohme Ltd.	Cramlington	71
M. M. Sales (Plant Hire) Ltd.	*'S'	52
Monsanto Ltd.	Middlesbrough	192
National Coal Board	Morpeth	39
Norsea Pipeline Ltd.	Middlesbrough	1,776
NSK Bearings Europe Ltd.	Peterlee	25
Patons and Baldwins Ltd.	Darlington	32
Phillips Washington	Washington	71
Portsmouth and Sunderland Newspapers Ltd.	Sunderland	31
Proctor and Gamble Ltd.	Wallsend	129
Ransome Hoffman Pollard Ltd.	Stanley	42
Rolls-Royce (1971) Ltd.	Sunderland	45
Royal Ordnance Factory	Birtley	80
Seymour Plant (Northern) Ltd.	Carlisle	27
Shell UK Ltd.	Middlesbrough	571
Sidex Ltd.	Wigton	121
Smart and Brown Engineerings Ltd.	Hartlepool	110
Stirling Winthrop Group Ltd.	Cramlington	83
Sunderland Shipbuilders Ltd.	Sunderland	256
Swan Hunter Shipbuilders Ltd.	Hebburn-on-Tyne	713
Swan Hunter Shipbuilders Ltd.	Newcastle upon Tyne	86
Swan Hunter Shipbuilders Ltd.	Wallsend	119

Name of company	Place of premises	Grant (£ 000)
Swiss Aluminium Mining (UK) Ltd.	Bishop Auckland	33
Tallent Engineering Ltd.	Darlington	26
Thermal Syndicate Ltd.	Wallsend	37
Timex Corporation	Washington	48
Tootal Ltd.	Maryport	31
United Biscuits Ltd.	Billingham	33
Vaux Breweries Ltd.	Sunderland	31
Vickers Ltd.	Newcastle upon Tyne	33
Washington Development Corporation	Washington	35
WALES		
AB Electronic Components Ltd.	Abercynon	42
Aberthaw and Bristol Channel Portland Cement Co. Ltd.	Barry	34
Addis Ltd.	Pentrichwyth	32
ADG Fibres (UK) Ltd.	Caernarfon	41
Alcan Booth Industries Ltd.	Newport	164
Alcoa Manufacturing (GB) Ltd.	Swansea	746
Aluminium Precision Extruders Ltd.	Newport	35
Amoco (UK) Ltd.	Milford Haven	41
Associated Octel Co. (Plant) Ltd.	Amlwch	81
Avana Group Ltd.	Rogerstone	43
British Airways Engine Overhaul Ltd.	Nantgarw	106
British American Optical Co. Ltd.	Kidwelly	26
British Insulated Callenders Cables Ltd.	Isycoed	99
British Leyland UK Ltd.	Cardiff	161
British Leyland UK Ltd.	Pengam	142
British Steel Corporation	Deeside	286
British Steel Corporation	Ebbw Vale	1,094
British Steel Corporation	Llanelli	37
British Steel Corporation	Newport	221
British Steel Corporation	Port Talbot	469
British Tissues Ltd.	Bridgend	42
British Tissues Ltd.	Llangynwyd	29
Brymbo Steel Works Ltd.	Tremorfa	574
Derek Crouch Contractors Ltd.	Llanharan	78
Dialoy Ltd.	Caerphilly	43
Dow Corning Ltd.	Barry	194
Duport Steel Works Ltd.	Neath	44
Elco Leasing Ltd.	Milford Haven	41
Esso Petroleum Co. Ltd.	Milford Haven	276
GEC (Radio and Television) Ltd.	Aberdare	66
George Wimpey and Co. Ltd.	Glyneath	27
George Wimpey and Co. Ltd.	Seven Sisters	32
GKN (South Wales) Ltd.	Cardiff	734
Golden Ltd.	Llantrisant	27
Hoover Ltd.	Merthyr Tydfil	46
Imperial Chemical Industries Ltd.	Mamhilad	94
International Nickel Ltd.	Clydach	32
International Nickel Ltd.	Swansea	125
Kraft Foods Ltd.	Haverfordwest	29
Kronospan Ltd.	Wrexham	64
Matsushita Electric (UK) Ltd.	Cardiff	30
Mettoy Co. Ltd.	Fforestfach	40
Mettoy Co. Ltd.	Queensway	72
Monsanto Ltd.	Wrexham	45
Morgan Crucible Co. Ltd.	Morriston	34
National Coal Board	Merthyr Vale	30
National Coal Board	Pontardulais	40
National Coal Board	Wrexham	30
National Smokeless Fuels Ltd.	Aberdare	29
Natural Gas Tubes Ltd.	Tredegar	67
Northern Strip Mining Ltd.	*'S'	106
Parke Davis and Co.	Pontypool	46
Pilkington PE Ltd.	St. Asaph	33
Plastic Engineers Ltd.	Pontypridd	59
P. Leiner and Sons (Wales) Ltd.	Pontypridd	60
P. Leiner and Sons (Encapsulations) Ltd.	Pontypridd	25
Ravenseft Industrial Estates Ltd.	Caldicot	39
Shell UK Ltd.	Amlwch	1,051
Short Bros. (Plant) Ltd.	*'S'	25
Texaco Ltd.	Pembroke	97
T. Potter and Sons Ltd.	*'S'	36
Venture Carpets Ltd.	Newport	78
West Wales Plant Hire Co. Ltd.	*'S'	50
3M (United Kingdom) Ltd.	Gorseinon	172
SCOTLAND		
Anderson Mayor Ltd.	Motherwell	34
Arthur Bell and Sons Ltd.	Dunfermline	36
Bakelite Xylonite Ltd.	Grangemouth	63
Barclay Curle and Co. Ltd.	Glasgow	55
British Steel Corporation	Airdrie	116
British Steel Corporation	Bellshill	731
British Steel Corporation	Cambuslang	336
British Steel Corporation	Coatbridge	35
British Steel Corporation	Motherwell	864
Busby Spinning Co. Ltd.	Kilwinning	27
Caird (Dundee) Ltd.	Dundee	49
C. H. Dexter Ltd.	Duns	168
D. C. Thomson and Co. Ltd.	Glasgow	27
Distillers Co. (Bottling Services)	Leven	222
Douglas Reyburn and Co. Ltd.	Kilmarnock	34
D.R.G. Packaging Ltd.	Uddingstone	39
Drybrough and Co. Ltd.	Edinburgh	57
Ethicon Ltd.	Livingston	37
Express Dairy Foods Ltd.	Lockerbie,	106
Findus Ltd.	Aberdeen	29
Gear Drive Systems Ltd.	Irvine	34
General Electric Co. Ltd.	Glenrothes	26
General Time (International Operations) Ltd.	Dumbarton	25
George Ballantine and Son Ltd.	Elgin	76
George M. Whiley Ltd.	Livingston	27
George Wimpey and Co. Ltd.	*'S'	51
Gestetner Papers Ltd.	Alloa	38
GKN Bolts and Nuts Ltd.	Glasgow	33
Glaxo Laboratories Ltd.	Montrose	188
Govan Shipbuilders Ltd.	Glasgow	190
Henry Widnell and Stewart Ltd.	Dalkeith	33
Hiram Walker and Sons (Scotland) Ltd.	Beith	184
Hoover Ltd.	Cambuslang	145
Howard Doris Ltd.	Loch Kishorn	310
Imperial Chemical Industries Ltd.	Dumfries	47
Imperial Chemical Industries Ltd.	Grangemouth	158
Imperial Chemical Industries Ltd.	Stevenston	34
Imperial Group Ltd.	Stevenston	435
Imperial Tobacco (Ardeer) Ltd.	Stevenston	149
Inver House Distillers Ltd.	Airdrie	753
Inveresk Paper Co. Ltd.	Bathgate	29
Inveresk Paper Co. Ltd.	Inverkeithing	54
Jack Harvey Plant (Scotland) Ltd.	*'S'	35
James Howden and Co. Ltd.	Glasgow	34
Jas Keiller and Son Ltd.	Dundee	29
J.B.E. Offshore Ltd.	Clydebank	90
John Fyfe Ltd.	Kemnay	37
John Mackay (Plant) Ltd.	*'S'	44
Jones and Campbell Ltd.	Larbert	27
Lilley Plant Ltd.	*'S'	62
Lombard North Central Leasing Ltd.	Dumbarton	50
Long John International Ltd.	Glasgow	119
L. S. Starrett Co. Ltd.	Jedburgh	35
McDermott Scotland	Ardersier	55
Mainetti (UK) Ltd.	Jedburgh	80
Malcom Plant Ltd.	*'S'	28
Marathon Shipbuilding Co. (UK) Ltd.	Clydebank	30
Martins (Dundyuan) Ltd.	Coatbridge	125
Morrison-Whyte (UK) Ltd.	Maybole	31
Motherwell Bridge Engineering Ltd.	*'S'	26
Nairn Floors Ltd.	Kirkcaldy	30
National Coal Board	Alloa	26
National Coal Board	Dalkeith	88
National Coal Board	Glenboig	42
National Coal Board	Glasgow	149
National Semiconductor (UK) Ltd.	Greenock	58
N.C.R. (Manufacturing) Ltd.	Dundee	56
Nobel's Explosives Co. Ltd.	Stevenston	91
North British Dist. Co. Ltd.	Edinburgh	27
Nuluk Surface Treatments	Airdrie	45
Philips Lighting Ltd.	Hamilton	28
Pye of Cambridge Ltd.	Livingston	70
R. B. Tennent Ltd.	Coatbridge	38
Re-chem International Ltd.	Bonnybridge	42
Redpath Dorman Long Ltd.	Glengarnock	31
Redpath Dorman Long (North Sea) Ltd.	Methil	291
Sir Robert McAlpine and Sons Ltd.	Toward	414
Rolls Royce (1971) Ltd.	Glasgow	76
Scottish Aggregates	Johnstone	55
Scottish Brick Co. Ltd.	Bishopbriggs	125
Scottish Grain Distillers Ltd.	Black Grange	134
Scottish Grain Distillers Ltd.	Menstrie	44
Scottish Stamping and Eng. Co. Ltd.	Ayr	44
Smith Anderson and Co. Ltd.	Leslie	58
Standard and Chartered Leasing Co. Ltd.	Bathgate	52
Standard and Chartered Leasing Co. Ltd.	South Queensferry	25
Stewart Bros. (Meats) Ltd.	Glasgow	26
Tarmac Construction Ltd.	*'S'	32
Thickol Chemicals Ltd.	Forfar	59
Tomatin Distillers Co. Ltd.	Tomatin	32
Tractor Shovels (Contracts) Ltd.	*'S'	57
Tractor Shovels (Fife) Ltd.	*'S'	40
U. G. Glass Containers Ltd.	Alloa	76
Wemyss Brick Co. Ltd.	Methil	75
Wm. Collins Sons and Co. Ltd.	Bishopbriggs	350

* Indicates use in more than one premises or sites in a development area.

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Current account of the United Kingdom balance of payments for January

In January 1976 the current account is estimated to have been in deficit by £59 million. The deficit on trade in goods was £179 million, seasonally adjusted, made up of a deficit of £350 million in trade in oil (that is, petroleum and petroleum products – for details see Table 12) and a surplus of £171 million in trade in non-oil goods. The balance on services and other current transactions is estimated to have been running at a monthly surplus of about £120 million.

In the three months November 1975 to January 1976 the current account deficit totalled £313 million compared with £454 million in the previous three months.

£ million seasonally adjusted

	Current balance	Visible balance: trade in goods			Invisible balance:
		Petroleum and petroleum products	Other goods	Total	Services and other current transactions
1975	−1,708	−3,117	−115	−3,232	+1,524
1975 1st quarter	−413	−766	−82	−848	+435
2nd quarter	−340	−689	+8	−681	+341
3rd quarter	−598	−795	−191	−986	+388
4th quarter	−357	−867	+150	−717	+360 (a)
1975 August	−271	−275	−126	−401	+130 (b)
September	−80	−265	+56	−209	+129 (b)
October	−103	−277	+54	−223	+120 (a)
November	−165	−275	−10	−285	+120 (a)
December	−89	−315	+106	−209	+120 (a)
1976 January	−59	−350	+171	−179	+120 (a)
1975 Aug.-Oct.	−454	−817	−16	−833	+379 (a)
Nov.-Jan. 1976	−313	−940	+267	−673	+360 (a)

(a) These figures are projections and are subject to revision as the relevant statistical information becomes available.

(b) One-third of the appropriate calendar quarter's estimate. Monthly figures of invisibles are not available.

ANALYSIS OF THE CURRENT ACCOUNT OF THE UNITED KINGDOM BALANCE OF PAYMENTS

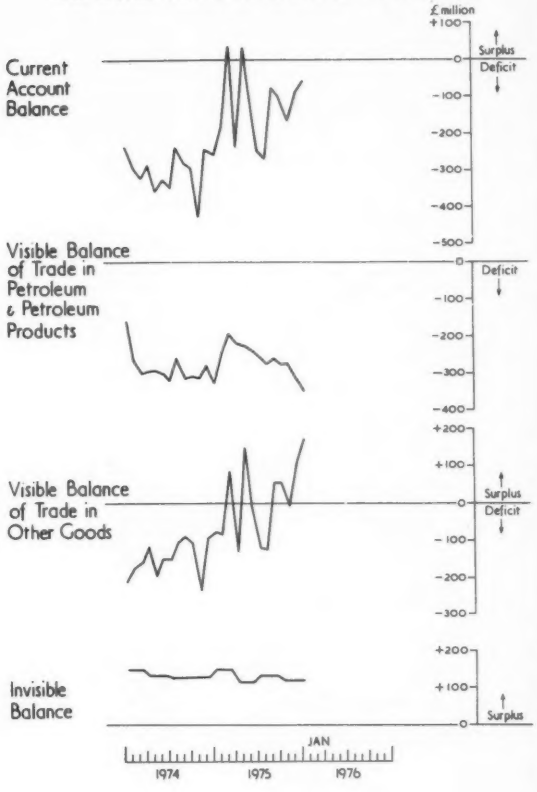


TABLE 1 Visible trade on balance of payments basis

Seasonally adjusted values £ million

	Exports (fob) r	Imports (fob) r	Visible balance r
1974	15,888	21,120	−5,232
1975	18,775	22,007	−3,232
1974 1st quarter	3,480	4,760	−1,280
2nd quarter	4,005	5,364	−1,359
3rd quarter	4,220	5,469	−1,249
4th quarter	4,183	5,527	−1,344
1975 1st quarter	4,527	5,375	−848
2nd quarter	4,475	5,156	−681
3rd quarter	4,645	5,631	−986
4th quarter	5,128	5,845	−717
1975 August	1,489	1,890	−401
September	1,582	1,791	−209
October	1,732	1,955	−223
November	1,641	1,926	−285
December	1,755	1,964	−209
1976 January p	1,785	1,964	−179
1975 Aug.-Oct.	4,804	5,636	−833
Nov.-Jan. 1976 p	5,181	5,854	−673
Percentage change*	+8	+4	

p Provisional estimates. r Revised estimates.

* Percentage change: latest three months on previous three months.

United Kingdom Trade

on a balance of payments basis
seasonally adjusted (except Unit Value Index)

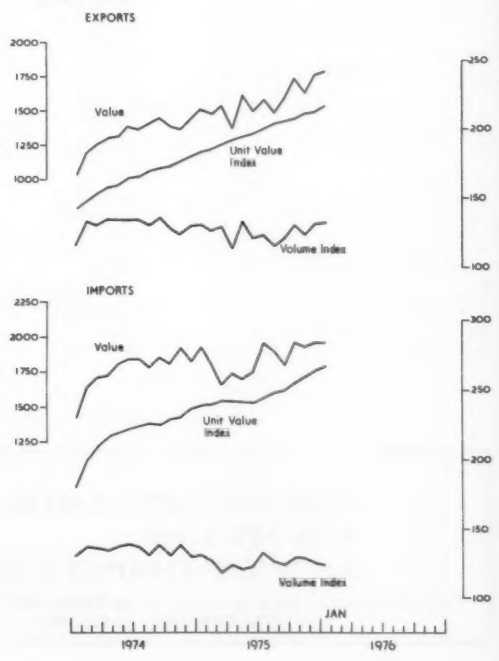


TABLE 2 Invisible trade ¶

Seasonally adjusted values

£ million

	Credits	Debits	Invisible balance
1974	9,975	8,409	+1,566
1974 1st quarter	2,444	2,017	+427
2nd quarter	2,456	2,068	+388
3rd quarter	2,452	2,076	+376
4th quarter	2,623	2,248	+375
1975 1st quarter	2,713	2,278	+435
2nd quarter	2,744	2,403	+341
3rd quarter	2,781	2,393	+388
4th quarter			
1975 October			+120*
November			+120*
December			+120*
1976 January			+120*

¶ See Note 1(g).
* These figures are projections and are subjec o revision as the relevant statistical information becomes available.

TABLE 3 Export and import unit value and volume index numbers on a balance of payments basis

Indices 1970 = 100

	Unit values (not seasonally adjusted)			Volume (seasonally adjusted)	
	Exports	Imports	Terms of trade†	Exports r	Imports r
1974	162.7	217.3	74.9	130.1	135.4
1975	197.7	246.5	80.2	124.9	126.0
1974 1st quarter	147.2	194.5	75.7	126.7	134.1
2nd quarter	159.9	218.4	73.2	134.0	137.6
3rd quarter	168.1	224.2	75.0	133.4	136.6
4th quarter	175.8	231.3	76.0	126.5	133.2
1975 1st quarter	184.9	239.7	77.1	128.8	125.6
2nd quarter	193.4	240.6	80.4	122.5	122.4
3rd quarter	202.4	246.7	82.0	120.1	127.8
4th quarter	210.1	259.2	81.1	128.3	128.1
1975 August	202.5	247.2	81.9	115.2	125.2
September	204.9	249.1	82.3	121.9	123.6
October	207.2	254.4	81.5	130.5	129.7
November	210.5	259.3	81.2	123.6	128.5
December	212.6	263.9	80.6	130.8	126.1
1976 January p	215.4	266.1	81.0	132.1	124.5
1975 Aug.-Oct.	204.9	250.2	81.9	122.5	126.2
Nov.-Jan. 1976 p	212.8	263.1	80.9	128.8	126.4
Percentage change	+4	+5	−1	+5	—

† Export Unit Value Index as a percentage of the Import Unit Value Index.
p Provisional estimates.
r Revised estimates.

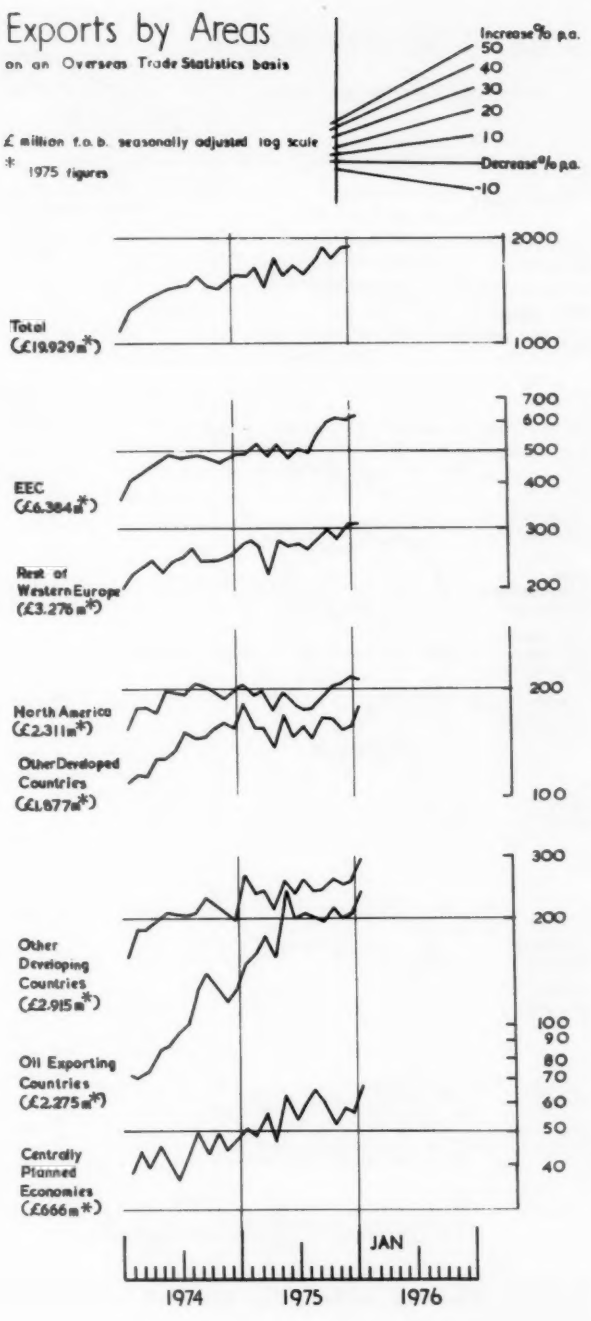


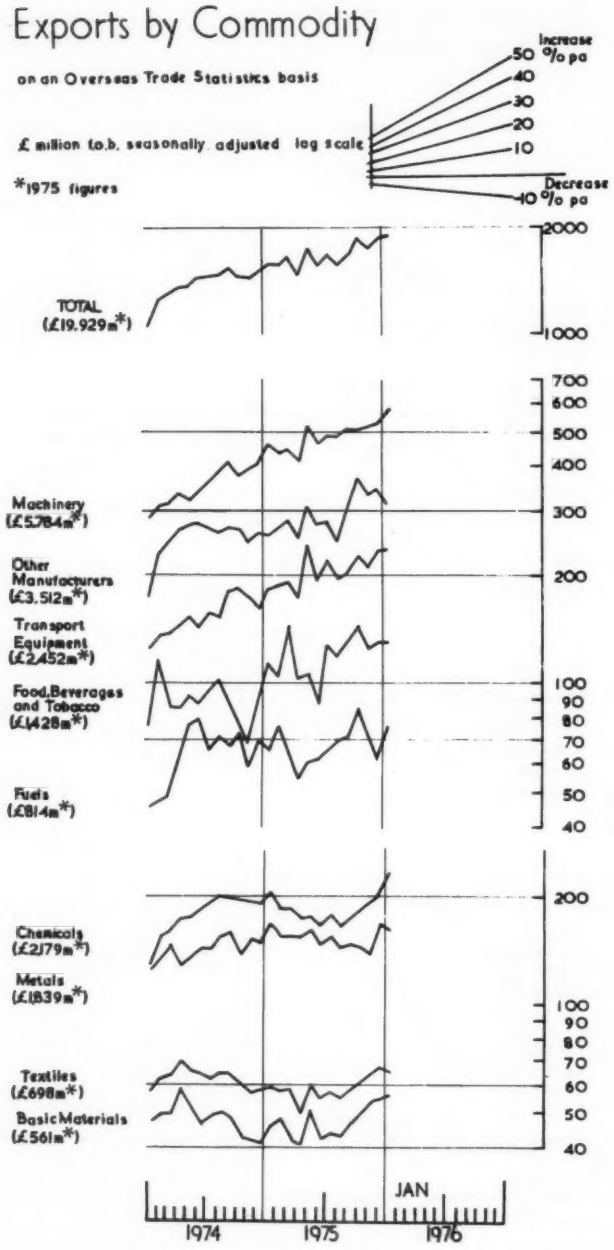
TABLE 4 Exports: areas¶ Overseas Trade Statistics basis

Seasonally adjusted values

£ million fob

		Developed countries				Developing countries		
	Total	EEC	Rest of W. Europe	North America	Other	Oil exporting countries	Other	Centrally planned economies
1975 r	19,929	6,419	3,372	2,332	1,879	2,278	2,923	566
1975 1st quarter r	4,781	1,514	827	603	491	484	733	153
2nd quarter r	4,744	1,494	782	553	451	585	699	163
3rd quarter r	4,940	1,560	847	544	465	596	732	183
4th quarter r	5,464	1,851	915	632	472	614	759	167
1975 November r	1,751	621	291	210	152	198	249	58
December r	1,854	618	314	216	158	206	254	56
1976 January p	1,883	627	307	215	178	239	294	67
1975 Aug.-Oct.	5,131	1,664	869	573	471	601	732	177
Nov.Jan. 1976 p	5,487	1,866	911	641	488	642	797	181
Percentage change p	+7	+12	+5	+12	+3½	+7	+9	+2½

¶ See Note 1 (b). r Revised estimates. p Provisional estimates.



VISIBLE TRADE

(a) Summary (Figures on a Balance of Payment Basis) (see Tables 1 and 3)

In January, there was a deficit on visible trade of £179 million, seasonally adjusted; the value of exports was £1,785 million and the value of imports £1,964 million. The visible trade deficit was less than the deficit of £209 million in December 1975, as the value of exports increased while imports were unchanged. In terms of volume, exports rose by 1 per cent while imports fell by 1½ per cent. The terms of trade index increased by ½ per cent, the result of a 1½ per cent rise in the export unit value index and a 1 per cent rise in the import unit value index.

In the three months ended January, the deficit on visible trade was £673 million compared with £833 million in the previous three months. There was a marked swing in the balance on trade in non-oil goods, from a deficit of £16 million to a surplus of £267 million, partly reflecting a reduction in imports of North Sea oil production installations: in contrast the oil trade deficit increased from £817 million to £940 million.

Exports were valued at £5,181 million in November 1975/January 1976, 8 per cent higher than in the previous three months while imports, at £5,854 million, were 4 per cent higher. The volume of export increased by 5 per cent while the volume of imports was unchanged; there was however a fall of 1 per cent in the terms of trade index as import prices increased more rapidly than export prices.

(b) Exports (Overseas Trade Statistics basis)

(i) Area analysis (see Table 4). The value of exports to the developed countries in aggregate was 9 per cent higher in the three months ended January 1976, than in the preceding three months. The value of goods despatched to the EEC rose by 12 per cent in the same period while there were increases of 5 per cent and 12 per cent respectively in shipments to the rest of Western Europe and North America. Exports to Australia, New Zealand, South Africa and Japan taken together rose by 3½ per cent. Exports to the developing countries in aggregate rose by 8 per cent. Within this group, shipments to the oil exporting countries were 7 per cent higher, and exports to the other developing countries increased by 9 per cent. The value of goods despatched to the centrally planned economies rose by 2½ per cent.

(ii) Commodity analysis (see Tables 5, 6 and 7). In the three months to January 1976, the value of exports of manufactured goods was 9½ per cent higher than in the previous three months with volume rising slightly faster than export prices. Within this broad category the value of exports of machinery rose by 8 per cent, mainly the result of higher prices while the values of road motor vehicles and other transport equipment despatched rose by 7 per cent and 13 per cent respectively (mainly because of higher volume).

Shipments of semi-manufactures generally rose substantially; exports of chemicals increased by 19 per cent in value and exports of textiles rose by 11 per cent, both increases mainly reflecting greater volumes of deliveries. The values of metals and metal manufactures

TABLE 5 Exports: commodity classes¶ Overseas Trade Statistics basis

Seasonally adjusted values — £ million fob

					Manufactures									
						Machinery and transport equipment								
	Total	Food, beverages and tobacco	Basic materials	Fuels	Total	Total	Machinery	Road motor vehicles	Other transport equipment*	Chemicals	Metals and miscellaneous metal manufactures	Textiles	Other manufactures	Miscellaneous
1975 r	19,929	1,428	561	814	16,464	8,236	5,784	1,737	715	2,179	1,839	698	3,512	662
1975 1st quarter r	4,781	364	136	210	3,905	1,904	1,343	411	149	572	478	174	805	157
2nd quarter r	4,744	295	135	178	3,963	2,012	1,391	418	191	512	462	163	837	157
3rd quarter r	4,940	373	134	207	4,079	2,112	1,486	451	165	516	447	170	825	169
4th quarter r	5,464	396	156	219	4,518	2,208	1,564	456	210	579	451	190	1,045	179
1975 November r	1,751	125	53	71	1,467	726	519	152	58	193	139	63	330	53
December r	1,854	129	54	62	1,564	753	535	155	77	200	168	67	345	51
1976 January p	1,883	129	56	76	1,556	816	575	165	70	232	163	65	312	63
1975 Aug.-Oct.	5,131	389	139	226	4,195	2,141	1,509	440	182	527	438	175	917	179
Nov.-Jan. 1976 p	5,487	383	163	210	4,586	2,294	1,629	472	205	625	470	195	987	166
Percentage change	+7	−1½	+17	−7½	+9½	+7	+8	+7	+3	+19	+7½	+11	+7½	−7

* Not seasonally adjusted. ¶ See note 1(b). r Revised estimates. p Provisional estimates.

and of other manufactures despatched both rose by 7½ per cent, reflecting increases in both volume and price. The value of shipments of non-manufactures was essentially unchanged over the period; an increase of 17 per cent in exports of basic materials being offset by lower values, and volumes, of deliveries of food, beverages and tobacco and fuels.

(c) Imports (Overseas Trade Statistics basis)

(i) Commodity analysis (see Tables 8, 10 and 11). Imports of food, beverages and tobacco were 8½ per cent lower by value in November 1975-January 1976 than in the previous three months, the result of a lower volume of arrivals. Imports of fuels and industrial materials both increased substantially in value – by 9½ per cent and 11 per cent respectively. Whereas the rise in fuels reflected higher prices offsetting a reduction in volume the increase for industrial materials was mainly in volume. Within this latter category there were large increases in the value of imports of basic materials and chemicals with greater volumes being mainly responsible for the increases. Arrivals of finished manufactures were little changed between the two three-monthly periods, a fall in volume offsetting higher prices. There was a fall in the value of imported machinery and transport equipment (which include North Sea oil production installations), with a lower volume offsetting higher prices. The value of other finished manufactures increased strongly, by 12 per cent, both higher volumes and prices being contributory factors.

(ii) Area analysis (see Table 9). The value of imports from Western Europe increased by 6 per cent in the three months ended January 1976, compared with the previous three months. Within this group imports from the EEC rose by 7 per cent and from the rest of Western Europe by 3½ per cent. Imports from North America increased by 4 per cent between the same periods, while shipments from Australia, New Zealand, South Africa and Japan in aggregate fell by 8 per cent. Among the developing countries, imports from the oil exporting countries fell by 1½ per cent, while those from the other developing countries rose by 10 per cent. Imports from the centrally planned economies increased by 29 per cent.

INVISIBLE TRADE (see Table 2)

The balance on services and other current transactions is estimated to have been running at a monthly surplus of about £120 million, with monthly credits and debits of the order of £900 million and £800 million respectively.

TABLE 6 Exports: volume indices Overseas Trade Statistics basis

Seasonally adjusted — Indices 1970 = 100

					Manufactures							
						Machinery and transport equipment						
	Total	Food, beverages and tobacco	Basic materials	Fuels	Total	Total	Machinery	Road motor vehicles and other transport equipment	Chemicals	Metals and miscellaneous metal manufactures	Textiles	Other manufactures
Weights	1,000	64	34	26	844	410	276	134	97	119	49	169
1975 r	129.8	155	107	93	130	133	136	128	142	102	105	145
1975 1st quarter r	133.1	167	105	105	133	135	137	129	153	114	103	145
2nd quarter r	126.9	133	102	87	128	133	134	130	135	103	100	143
3rd quarter r	124.9	148	104	90	126	133	137	122	135	96	103	131
4th quarter r	134.4	171	118	91	134	132	135	130	146	93	114	160
1975 November r	128.9	162	121	87	130	129	133	122	146	87	114	152
December r	134.6	163	122	76	136	132	136	133	148	102	118	155
1976 January p	136.5	162	122	86	137	143	146	134	178	104	115	143
1975 Aug.-Oct.	128.8	164	107	96	129	133	137	124	137	94	106	144
Nov.-Jan. 1976 p	133.3	162	122	83	135	135	138	130	157	98	115	150
Percentage change	+3½	−1	+13	−13	+4½	+1½	+1	+5	+15	+4½	+9	+4½

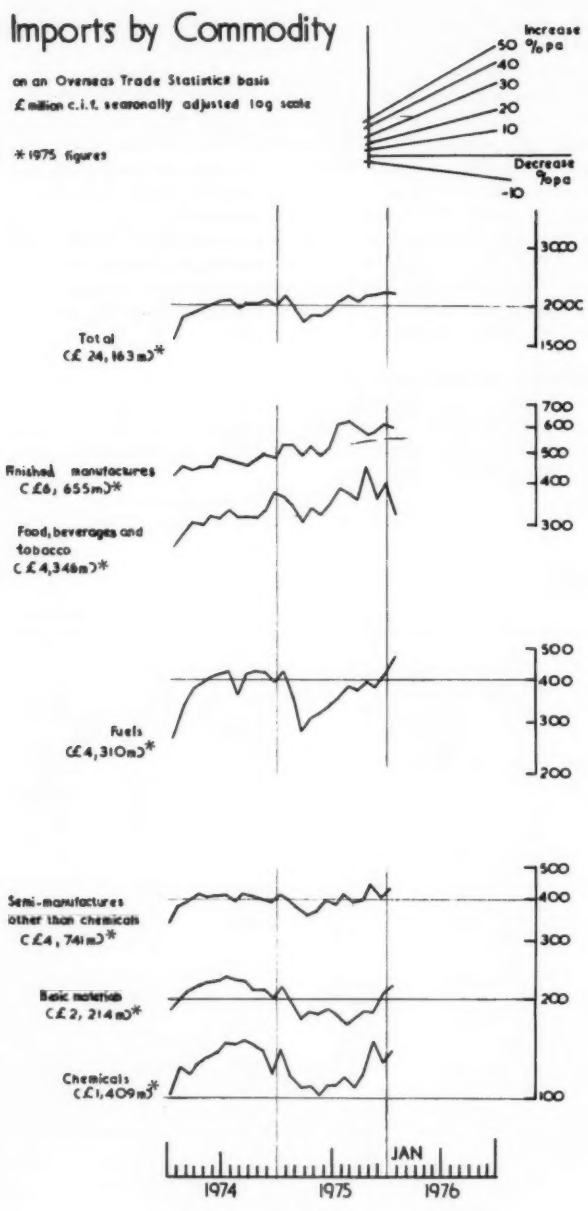
p Provisional estimates. r Revised estimates.

TABLE 7 Exports: unit value indices Overseas Trade Statistics basis

Not seasonally adjusted — Indices 1970 = 100

					Manufactures							
						Machinery and transport equipment						
	Total	Food, beverages and tobacco	Basic materials	Fuels	Total	Total	Machinery	Road motor vehicles and other transport equipment	Chemicals	Metals and miscellaneous metal manufactures	Textiles	Other manufactures
1975 r	198.3	178	198	439	193	196	200	189	209	194	177	180
1975 1st quarter r	184.9	166	192	416	179	179	182	172	200	184	178	163
2nd quarter r	193.4	176	199	421	188	190	192	185	209	189	177	172
3rd quarter r	202.0	183	200	442	197	201	202	201	209	195	177	185
4th quarter r	210.1	187	202	474	205	213	217	203	211	202	180	192
1975 November r	210.5	186	201	478	205	213	219	201	212	202	179	191
December r	212.5	187	201	485	207	216	221	206	213	203	181	194
1976 January p	215.4	184	204	502	210	219	225	207	215	206	181	196
1975 Aug.-Oct.	204.8	185	202	453	199	205	207	202	209	197	178	188
Nov.-Jan. 1976 p	212.8	186	202	489	208	216	222	205	213	204	181	194
Percentage change	+4	+½	—	+8	+4	+5½	+7	+1½	+2½	+3½	+1½	+3

p Provisional estimates. r Revised estimates.



NOTES

1(a) Trade figures on a Balance of Payments basis. The seasonally adjusted import and export figures on a Balance of Payments basis are obtained by making various adjustments to the seasonally adjusted figures derived from those recorded in the monthly *Overseas Trade Statistics*. These adjustments are summarised in Table 13 of this article. Some are valuation adjustments; the principal of these is the deduction from the import figure of freight and insurance costs. The other adjustments relate to coverage, either to bring in items not in the Trade Statistics (for example on the import side ships built and delivered abroad direct to UK owners) or to remove items which are in the Trade Statistics (mainly returned goods and goods for processing and repair). The adjustment of imports to a balance of payments basis excludes the values of deliveries of US military aircraft (including spares and some missiles) but includes the payments for those imports which are mainly being financed by a special Exim Bank credit (the values involved are now small). All these adjustments are described in greater detail in the annual '*Pink Book*' *United Kingdom Balance of Payments 1964-74* (Table 4 and pages 64-67) and in an article in the issue of *Trade and Industry* dated 4 November 1970.

Since firm figures for the adjustments do not become available as quickly as the recorded trade statistics, the figures for imports and exports on a balance of payments basis in the latest months are at this stage preliminary estimates and liable to revision.

1(b). The adjustments described at Note 1(a) are made only for the monthly totals of exports and imports (Table 1) and the monthly figures of trade in petroleum and petroleum products (Table 12). They are not estimated for the area and other commodity analyses of trade. The values of total trade and the main components of exports and imports in Tables 4 to 11 are available only on the Overseas Trade Statistics basis. Whereas comment on total trade and trade in petroleum and petroleum products relates to figures for exports and imports on a balance of payments basis, analyses of the area and other commodity patterns of trade in this article are based on the figures on the Overseas Trade Statistics basis in Tables 4 to 11. The main components of trade are seasonally adjusted independently from the totals and in consequence do not always add exactly to the seasonally adjusted totals.

1(c) Visible balance. The visible balance is the difference between the import and export figures on a balance of payments basis obtained as described in Note 1(a) above. Since, as noted above, the import and export figures for the most recent months are provisional, it follows that the monthly visible balances for these months are also provisional and liable to revision.

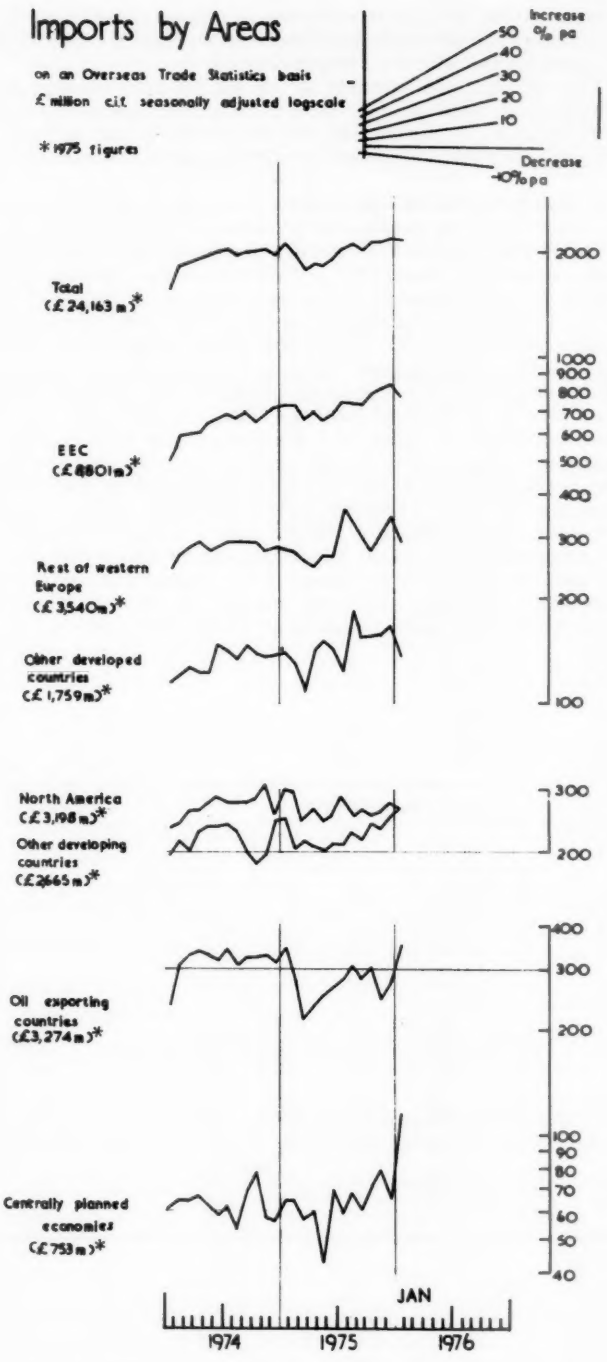
The monthly figures for the visible balance are published only on a seasonally adjusted basis. Since the balance is the difference of two large and variable figures, it is itself liable to fluctuation and undue significance should not be attached to a single month's figure; it is more useful to consider the average balance over three or more months.

TABLE 8 Imports: commodity classes¶ Overseas Trade Statistics basis

Seasonally adjusted values — £ million cif

				Industrial materials				Finished manufactures						
									Machinery and transport equipment					
	Total	Food, beverages and tobacco	Fuels	Total	Basic materials	Chemicals	Other semi-manufactures	Total	Total	Machinery	Road motor vehicles	Other transport equipment*	Other	Miscellaneous
1975	24,163	4,346	4,310	8,364	2,214	1,409	4,741	6,655	4,782	3,603	883	297	1,872	489
1975 1st quarter r	5,879	1,013	1,055	2,129	582	364	1,182	1,538	1,094	792	195	96	444	153
2nd quarter r	5,632	1,004	955	1,991	545	320	1,126	1,524	1,079	800	224	71	445	125
3rd quarter r	6,191	1,119	1,110	2,041	519	331	1,191	1,836	1,364	1,056	229	70	472	105
4th quarter r	6,462	1,208	1,190	2,203	568	394	1,242	1,757	1,246	955	234	60	511	106
1975 November r	2,130	358	383	766	180	146	441	583	412	322	82	16	171	34
December r	2,195	399	411	739	207	129	403	608	430	326	85	17	178	34
1976 January p	2,182	325	465	783	217	136	430	599	411	292	89	22	188	31
1975 Aug.-Oct.	6,260	1,181	1,153	2,064	523	340	1,200	1,784	1,304	998	220	69	479	103
Nov.-Jan. 1976 p	6,507	1,082	1,259	2,288	603	411	1,274	1,791	1,254	940	256	55	537	99
Percentage change	+4	−8½	+9½	+11	+15	+21	+6	+½	−4	−6	+16	−21	+12	−4

* Not seasonally adjusted. ¶See Note 1(b). r Revised estimates. p Provisional estimates.



1(d) Trends. Even after allowing for seasonal influences, the sequence of monthly figures is usually too variable to give a satisfactory indication of the underlying trend. While it is possible to construct elaborate estimates of trend these cannot be applied to the most recent months, and a simple method of giving some guidance on underlying movements in the most recent past is to take averages of three months. Apart from occasions when major disturbances distort the flows of trade, the three-monthly average gives a quite good short-term guide and has the merit of simplicity.

1(e) Recording of exports. The present system for the documentation of exports aimed at securing their full recording was introduced in October 1971; the system, and the methods used to monitor the accuracy of the resulting figures, were described in an article in *Trade and Industry*, 15 February 1973.

Regular assessments of the quality of recording indicated that, from the beginning of 1972 until late 1973 there was no need to make adjustments to the export figures for a shortfall in documentation. Some errors in recording remained, whereby either the need to submit a document was overlooked or, on the other hand, two documents might be submitted for the same goods. The amount of these errors had been substantially reduced, and they more or less balanced out, leaving the total recorded figure of exports in each month virtually correct.

From the autumn of 1973 until the end of 1974, however, there was evidence of a slight deterioration causing a small net amount of under-recording of about half of one per cent. In view of this evidence an adjustment, varying between £6 million and £8 million, was made for each month between October 1973 and December 1974, with smaller notional amounts in July to September 1973.

The monthly monitoring and follow-up process takes some time to carry out, so that the evidence becomes available several months in arrear. The evidence now available for 1975 shows a distinct and sustained improvement so that the amount of net under-recording is again negligible. As a result it is no longer necessary to make any adjustment for net under-recording to the monthly export figures from January 1975 onwards.

Regular monitoring of the quality of recording will continue.

1(f) Timing. The figures for exports relate to documents received in the Statistical Office of HM Customs and Excise up to a few days before the end of the calendar month. On average export documents arrive at the Customs Statistical Office within a fortnight of the shipment of goods, so that the documents relate to goods passing through the ports in the month ending about the middle of the calendar month to which they are attributed. The figures for imports relate to documents received at the Customs Statistical Office up to the third working day after the end of the month. Importers are usually required to present their documents before they can obtain Customs clearance and remove the goods. Thus the import statistics correspond closely to movements through the ports during the calendar month to which they are attributed.

1(g) Invisible trade (services and other current transactions) covers the following items: Government services and transfer payments; all other services including sea and air transport, travel, and insurance, banking and other financial transactions; overseas

TABLE 9 Imports: areas¶ Overseas Trade Statistics basis

Seasonally adjusted values

£ million cif

	Total	Developed countries				Developing countries		Centrally planned economies
		EEC	Rest of W. Europe	North America	Other	Oil exporting countries	Other	
1975 r	24,163	8,805	3,566	3,208	1,855	3,274	2,666	753
1975 1st quarter r	5,879	2,125	825	849	432	834	669	184
2nd quarter r	5,632	2,043	787	768	456	751	620	170
3rd quarter r	6,191	2,215	1,013	802	476	864	652	186
4th quarter r	6,462	2,423	941	789	491	825	724	213
1975 November r	2,130	810	317	260	160	244	232	78
December r	2,195	830	343	276	168	279	251	65
1976 January p	2,182	777	297	265	138	352	269	114
1975 Aug.-Oct.	6,260	2,255	927	770	507	887	684	198
Nov.-Jan. 1976 p	6,507	2,418	958	801	467	875	752	257
Percentage change	+4	+7	+3½	+4	−8	−1½	+10	+29

¶ See Note 1(b). r Revised estimates. p Provisional estimates.

income in the form of interest, profits and dividends; and private transfers. The monthly figures are inevitably less precise than those for visible trade for several reasons: the data are not available on a monthly basis (some are reported quarterly, others less frequently) and the figures are, therefore, essentially projections based on past trends though subject to modification for special factors (eg timing of quarterly EEC contributions and receipts) which affect the trend; revisions, affecting particularly gross credits and debits, but often the balance as well, are more frequent; and the gross figures themselves include a number of items which are appropriately recorded as the net profit or surplus arising on the transactions.

1(h) Trade in petroleum and petroleum products. Trade in petroleum and petroleum products (Table 12) accounts for almost all the trade in Fuels, Section 3 of SITC(R) which is included in Tables 5 and 8. Import figures are shown for crude oil and for the rest of the division which includes petroleum partly refined for further refining and petroleum products (eg motor spirit, lamp oil and white spirit, distillate fuels, residual fuel oils, lubricating oils and greases, etc.).

The figures of value and tonnage of crude oil imports in Table 12 are based on reports to HM Customs and Excise and have been seasonally adjusted with the same seasonal and length of month factors as have been used for the Fuels totals in Tables 5 and 8. These figures cannot be directly compared with the monthly import tonnages originating from the Department of Energy which are published in the *Monthly Digest of Statistics* and the *Digest of Energy Statistics*, as the latter are based on reports received directly from the oil industry and are unadjusted. Over longer periods the differences between the two sources are largely resolved.

The average value of crude oil per ton has been obtained by dividing the value of crude oil imports by the tonnage and will reflect not only changes in price but also changes in the commodity mix of imports due, for example, to differing qualities of crude oil.

1(i) Unit value and volume indices. A brief description of the way in which the index numbers on a balance of payments basis are calculated was published in the article giving unit value and volume index numbers for March 1971 in *Trade and Industry* of 26 May 1971. An article was published in *Trade and Industry* on 11 October 1973 introducing the series of import and export unit value and volume indices with 1970 = 100. The purpose of the index numbers is to measure the changes in price and volume of our imports and exports. Index numbers can be constructed in various ways, and the series used here are of the fixed base type. Thus, the unit value indices measure changes in 'price' of a fixed selection of trade headings (although in practice it is not specific prices which are measured but the average price of all the varying transactions taking place each month in the selected headings, reflecting different kinds of goods covered by each heading and different markets or sources of supply). Correspondingly, the volume indices measure, for the same selection of trade headings, what the change in the value of trade would be assuming no changes in the prices charged from those in the base year. Because the indices are base weighted, they do not take account

TABLE 10 Imports: volume indices
Overseas Trade Statistics basis

Seasonally adjusted — Indices 1970 = 100

				Industrial materials				Finished manufactures				
									Machinery and transport equipment			
	Total	Food, beverages and tobacco	Fuels	Total	Basic materials	Chemicals	Other semi-manufactures	Total	Total	Machinery	Road motor vehicles and other transport equipment	Other
Weights	1,000	227	105	427	151	60	216	229	166	133	33	63
1975 r	124.4	98	89	113	78	122	135	183	182	176	203	186
1975 1st quarter r	123.9	91	90	116	82	124	137	184	185	175	214	183
2nd quarter r	119.9	92	85	110	79	112	132	173	169	163	207	184
3rd quarter r	126.0	101	91	111	74	117	135	191	192	189	200	187
4th quarter r	127.9	107	90	116	78	134	138	182	180	177	191	189
1975 November r	128.1	98	88	120	72	147	147	180	178	180	185	186
December r	127.6	105	89	116	85	130	133	187	184	178	199	195
1976 January p	125.1	89	95	123	90	141	141	184	173	164	192	212
1975 Aug.-Oct.	126.4	106	92	111	74	119	135	188	188	183	194	187
Nov.-Jan. 1976 p	126.9	97	91	120	82	139	140	184	178	174	192	198
Percentage change	+½	−8½	−2	+7½	+11	+17	+4	−2½	−5½	−5	−1	+5½

p Provisional estimates. r Revised estimates.

TABLE 11 Imports: unit value indices
Overseas Trade Statistics basis

Not seasonally adjusted — Indices 1970 = 100

				Industrial materials				Finished manufactures				
									Machinery and transport equipment			
	Total	Food, beverages and tobacco	Fuels	Total	Basic materials	Chemicals	Other semi-manufactures	Total	Total	Machinery	Road motor vehicles and other transport equipment	Other
1975 r	235.9	219	535	199	215	229	180	188	183	181	194	200
1975 1st quarter	230.1	218	509	200	217	240	177	174	168	164	183	191
2nd quarter	231.9	219	506	198	213	236	177	186	181	179	191	197
3rd quarter	237.6	217	536	200	213	230	182	196	192	189	204	207
4th quarter	249.5	223	591	206	222	234	187	205	199	197	210	220
1975 November	249.3	222	592	206	221	236	187	205	198	195	210	223
December r	253.5	225	618	207	224	233	188	206	201	199	207	221
1976 January p	255.4	225	633	207	224	235	188	206	200	197	212	220
1975 Aug.-Oct	241.3	219	551	202	216	231	184	199	195	192	208	211
Nov.-Jan. 1976 p	252.7	224	615	207	223	235	188	206	200	197	210	221
Percentage change	+4½	+2	+12	+2½	+3½	+1½	+2	+3	+2½	+3	+1	+4½

p Provisional estimates. r Revised estimates.

of the changes in the pattern of trade since the base year, and consequently their product does not precisely account for the change in the value of trade expressed as an index. In practice, though, since the composition of trade changes little between consecutive months, the product of the changes in the indices will often approximate to the change in the value of trade between one month and the next. A full methodological article about the 1970-based series of indices was published in the April 1975 issue of *Economic Trends*. Adjustments have been made to the import volume index to include North Sea oil production installations, however no changes have been made to the base-weighted unit value index.

1(j) Definition of areas. The areas used in Tables 4 and 9 of this article are defined in *Trade and Industry*, 20 February 1975.

1(k) Revisions to seasonally adjusted figures. Revised estimates of seasonally adjusted monthly and quarterly exports and imports have been made. The re-analysis of the series by the main computer program after all the monthly figures for 1975 had become available has resulted in some modifications to the previously published series for 1973, 1974 and 1975 and the amended figures are shown in the tables together with the revised tables of the visible balance.

The *Trade and Industry* article of 17 February 1971 on seasonal adjustment explains the necessity for periodical revisions.

2. Overseas Trade Statistics

Detailed particulars of United Kingdom imports and exports for January with cumulative totals will be published on 26 February* and further analysis of the figures will be found in Tables 122 to 140 in the *Monthly Digest* for February†, due to be published in the second week of March.

* Overseas Trade Statistics of the United Kingdom, published by HMSO, price £3.50 (Annual subscription £45.96).

† Monthly Digest of Statistics, published by HMSO, price £1.20 (Annual subscription including Supplement of Definitions and postage £16.38).

TABLE 12 Trade in petroleum and petroleum products¶
On a Balance of Payments basis (Division 33 of SITC(R))

Seasonally adjusted

	Balance of Visible trade	Imports					Exports
		Total	Crude oil			Rest of Division 33	Total
	£ million fob	£ million fob	£ million fob	million tonns	Average value per ton £ fob	£ million fob	£ million fob
1974	−3,423	4,119	3,342	109.4	30.6	777	696
1975 r	−3,117	3,838	3,070	85.8	35.8	768	721
1974 1st quarter r	−730	866	703	28.5	24.8	163	136
2nd quarter r	−890	1,092	902	28.3	32.0	190	202
3rd quarter r	−897	1,080	868	26.5	32.9	212	183
4th quarter r	−906	1,081	869	26.1	33.4	212	175
1975 1st quarter r	−766	943	753	22.1	34.2	190	177
2nd quarter r	−689	843	698	20.7	33.7	145	154
3rd quarter r	−795	985	806	22.7	35.6	179	190
4th quarter r	−867	1,067	813	20.3	40.1	254	200
1975 November r	−275	344	249	6.2	40.2	95	69
December r	−315	368	279	6.6	42.3	89	53
1976 January p	−350	421	341	7.9	43.1	80	71
1975 Aug.-Oct.	−817	1,024	835	22.7	36.9	189	207
Nov.-Jan. 1976 p	−940	1,133	869	20.7	41.9	264	193
Percentage change		+11	+4	−9	+14	+40	−7

p Provisional estimates. r Revised estimates. ¶ See Note 1(h).

TABLE 13 Derivation of the balance of payments

£ million

	EXPORTS				IMPORTS				
	Recorded	Seasonally adjusted†			Recorded	Seasonally adjusted†			
	Overseas Trade Statistics basis (fob)	Overseas Trade Statistics basis (fob)	Coverage adjustments	Balance of Payments basis (fob)	Overseas Trade Statistics basis (cif)	Overseas Trade Statistics basis (cif)	Adjustments to BOP basis: Valuation adjustments	Adjustments to BOP basis: Coverage adjustments	Balance of Payments basis
1974	16,496	16,496	−608	15,888	23,117	23,117	−1,652	−344	21,120
1975	19,762	19,762	−988	18,775	24,028	24,028	−1,615	−406	22,007
1974 1st quarter r	3,584	3,604	−124	3,480	5,367	5,259	−418	−81	4,760
2nd quarter r	4,168	4,124	−119	4,005	5,997	5,933	−421	−148	5,364
3rd quarter r	4,236	4,408	−188	4,220	5,762	5,963	−415	−79	5,469
4th quarter r	4,508	4,360	−178	4,183	5,991	5,961	−398	−36	5,527
1975 1st quarter r	4,559	4,746	−219	4,527	5,807	5,804	−377	−53	5,375
2nd quarter r	4,915	4,717	−242	4,475	5,813	5,602	−388	−58	5,156
3rd quarter r	4,747	4,889	−244	4,645	5,991	6,172	−418	−122	5,631
4th quarter r	5,541	5,411	−283	5,128	6,417	6,451	−432	−174	5,845
1975 August r	1,370	1,574	−85	1,489	1,859	2,098	−136	−72	1,890
September r	1,609	1,672	−90	1,582	1,962	2,015	−143	−81	1,791
October r	1,976	1,835	−102	1,732	2,312	2,130	−152	−23	1,955
November r	1,679	1,735	−94	1,641	2,002	2,127	−136	−65	1,926
December r	1,886	1,842	−86	1,755	2,103	2,194	−145	−85	1,964
1976 January p	1,785	1,883	−98	1,785	2,138	2,182	−145	−72	1,964
1975 Aug.-Oct.	4,955	5,081	−277	4,804	6,133	6,243	−431	−176	5,636
Nov.-Jan. 1976 p	5,350	5,460	−278	5,181	6,243	6,503	−426	−222	5,854
Percentage change	+8	+7½		+8	+2	+4			+4

† Components and totals are rounded independently. p Provisional estimates. r Revised estimates.

Wholesale price indices in January

Output prices

The provisional price index for the output of manufactured products rose by 1¾ per cent in January to 204.9 (1970 = 100).

January's rise of 1¾ per cent in the provisional price index for manufactured goods other than food, drink and tobacco reflected the normal annual pattern of price changes. The latest three months, November to January, show an increase of 4 per cent compared with 6¼ per cent in the same period a year ago. Most sectors of industry showed significant increases.

The annual pattern was most marked in the price index for products of the timber industries which rose by 2¼ per cent in January, contributing to a rise of 12¾ per cent in the latest 12-month period. January's increase was caused mainly by higher prices for building

Further information

Correspondence about wholesale price index numbers should be addressed to Statistics Division 4, Room 610, Sanctuary Buildings, Great Smith Street, London SW1P 3DB. Telephone inquiries for price index numbers should be made to 01-215 3549 (engineering), 5216 (chemicals, steel, building materials, etc.), 3548 (textiles, clothing, timber, paper, etc.), 3173 (imported commodities), 3544 Tables 1 and 2 indices.

TABLE 1 Price index numbers of materials purchased

1970 = 100

1968 SIC		1974	1975				1975								1976
		4th qtr.	1st qtr.	2nd qtr.	3rd qtr.	4th qtr. p	Jan.	Jun.	Jul.	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec. p	Jan. p
Orders III to XIX	Materials and fuel purchased by manufacturing industry:	222.1	220.9	225.6	239.3	255.4	222.1	227.7	233.2	241.4	243.2	251.7 p	256.2 p	258.4	260.4
	†Materials	228.2	225.9	228.7	243.4	260.7	227.8	230.6	236.6	245.7	247.7	256.6 p	261.5 p	263.9	266.0
	Coal (except for carbonising), gas and electricity	164.2	173.3	195.8	200.5	205.2	167.2	200.9	200.9	200.3	200.3	204.4	205.3	205.9	207.0
Orders IV to XIX	Materials and fuel purchased by manufacturing industry, other than food, drink and tobacco manufacturing industries:	237.3	237.3	244.3	255.4	269.8	237.4	247.5	252.4	256.7	257.1	267.6 p	269.4 p	272.3	273.6
	†Materials	247.7	246.5	251.3	263.3	278.9	247.5	254.2	259.8	264.8	265.2	276.6 p	278.5 p	281.7	283.1
	Materials and fuels purchased by Selected Broad Sectors of Industry:														
211 to 229	Food manufacturing industries	187.1	186.7	187.7	205.2	224.7	188.8	187.5	193.7	208.2	213.6	217.3	227.8	229.0	232.6
211 to 229 (excluding MLH 219)	Food manufacturing industries (excluding animal and poultry foods)	181.1	184.1	186.5	202.8	223.2	184.5	186.3	191.9	205.6	210.7	214.5	227.0	228.2	231.7
Order V	Chemicals and allied industries	227.3	230.9	233.5	241.0	250.8	230.8	234.4	237.7	242.2	243.2	248.5 p	249.3 p	254.5	254.7
311 and 312	Steel industries	200.4	210.7	225.9	230.6	237.6	208.7	227.3	230.0	230.4	231.4	234.8	236.8	241.3	242.6
Order VII (excluding MLH 342)	Mechanical engineering industries	184.0	197.6	206.1	211.4	217.1	193.6	207.8	210.1	212.0	212.2	214.5	217.5	219.3	221.9
Order IX	Electrical engineering industries	163.9	171.0	176.5	182.6	186.9	168.2	176.9	179.8	184.1	183.9	185.3	187.1	188.4	191.5
361	Electrical machinery industry	173.7	184.4	191.6	196.7	201.4	181.3	192.6	194.5	197.7	197.9	199.6	201.6	203.1	206.4
Order XIII	Textile industries	186.4	189.4	198.6	204.0	214.8	188.5	201.1	202.1	204.2	205.7	210.1	213.7	220.6	225.3
Order XV	Clothing and footwear industries	174.7	176.1	179.4	184.7	189.3	175.7	181.0	183.0	185.0	186.2	187.7	189.5	190.8	192.0
Order XVII	Timber industries	217.0	217.4	217.2	217.0	220.2	216.7	216.7	216.5	217.0	217.4	218.9	219.4	222.4	225.4
481 to 484	Paper industries	215.3	231.8	240.1	243.5	248.8	231.8	243.4	242.4	244.5	243.7	246.7	248.3	251.6	251.9
Order XX	Construction materials	183.9	194.7	203.4	209.5	215.1	190.8	204.9	206.7	210.2	211.6	213.1	215.4	216.8	220.4
Part of Order XX	House building materials	186.9	196.5	205.0	211.2	217.0	192.8	205.9	208.0	211.8	213.8	215.3	217.2	218.4	222.4

† Includes crude oil and coal for carbonising.

Notes on wholesale price indices

1 Detailed notes on index numbers of wholesale prices were last shown in *Trade and Industry* of 13 June 1975.

2 The index numbers are constructed on a net sector basis. This is to say, the price movements used to compile the index for a particular sector of industry are only those relating to transactions between the sector and other sectors. Transactions between undertakings in the same sector are excluded. Thus index numbers for the whole of manufacturing industry are not weighted averages of sector index numbers.

3 All the index numbers are compiled exclusive of value added tax and (before its abolition) of purchase tax. Revenue duties (on cigarettes and manufactured tobacco, alcoholic liquor, matches and mechanical lighters) are included. The duty on hydrocarbon oils is excluded from output price series that cover these products (unless specifically noted to the contrary) but is included in series for materials and fuel purchased by broad sectors of industry.

4 Firm indices, at all levels of aggregation, include imputation for items for which there is no current price information. Provisional indices at high levels of aggregation, Table 1 and Table 2, also include imputation for items for which there is no current price information. Additional provisional figures will be published for those indices where there are insufficient returns to allow accurate imputation.

5 Revisions to firm index numbers will only be published if the revised indices are significantly different. These revisions will only be notified in the full version of the wholesale price index articles, ie those published in April, August and December of each year.

CHART 1 (LOG SCALE)

MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY
(other than food, drink & tobacco)
the latest two months are provisional

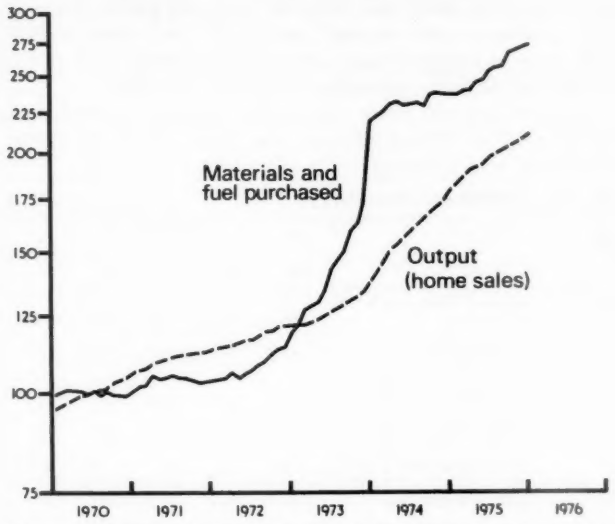
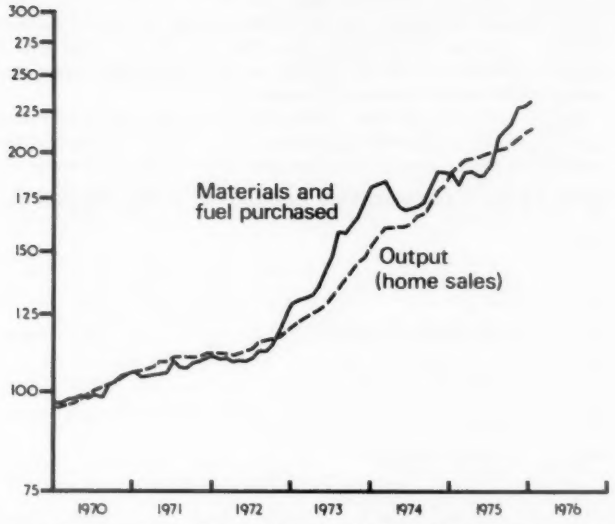


CHART 2 (LOG SCALE)

FOOD MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY
the latest two months are provisional



joinery and domestic furniture. The index for the products of the clothing and footwear industries has shown a similar pattern of price rises for the last year with increased prices for overalls, shirts and footwear making the most significant contribution to the latest rise.

The prices of electrical machinery have continued to increase rapidly and these were largely responsible for January's increase of 2½ per cent in the index for electrical engineering products.

The index for the products of the chemicals and allied industries rose by a little more than 2 per cent with higher prices for fertilisers, paint, soap, detergents and toilet preparations making significant contributions.

Most indices for other sectors of industry showed increases of between 1 per cent and 2 per cent in January, on provisional figures, with only those for the steel and paper industries showing smaller rises.

Higher prices for most items of manufactured foods caused an increase of 1 per cent in the provisional price index for this sector. The increase of 4¾ per cent in the most recent three months followed rises of less than 2½ per cent in the two previous three month periods.

The rate of inflation for the output of manufactured products measured over a 12-month period has continued to fall. The rate of 18½ per cent for the 12 months ending in January shows a substantial decrease from the figure of 20¼ per cent for the period ending in December 1975.

Input prices

The provisional index for materials and fuel purchased by manufacturing industry rose by ¾ per cent to 206.4 in January.

Further price rises for potatoes and home-landed fish were mainly responsible for January's increase of 1½ per cent in the index of materials and fuel purchased by the food manufacturing industry.

The increase of ½ per cent in the provisional index for materials

TABLE 2 Price index numbers of output (home sales)

1970 = 100

1968 SIC		1974	1975				1975								1976
		4th qtr.	1st qtr.	2nd qtr.	3rd qtr.	4th qtr. p	Jan.	Jun.	Jul.	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec. p	Jan. p
Orders III to XIX	Output of Manufactured Products	164.9	176.0	186.3	193.4	199.1	173.0	189.0	191.7	193.5	194.9	197.0	198.9	201.5	204.9
Orders IV to XIX	Products of manufacturing industry other than food, drink and tobacco manufacturing industries	170.9	182.8	192.1	199.1	205.4	179.5	193.8	197.1	199.3	201.0	203.4	205.1	207.7	211.4
	Output of Selected Broad Sectors of Industry:														
211 to 229	Products of the food manufacturing industries	178.0	192.5	197.4	201.3	208.0	189.2	199.1	200.1	201.6	202.1	204.3	208.1	211.6	213.9
211 to 229 (excluding MLH 219)	Products of the food manufacturing industries (excluding animal and poultry foods)	174.3	190.7	198.7	203.0	208.2	186.0	200.7	201.9	203.6	203.5	204.5	208.3	211.8	214.1
Order V	Chemicals and allied industries	167.3	177.4	186.2	192.8	198.2	174.0	187.1	190.8	192.8	194.9	196.8	198.1	199.8	204.0
311 and 312	Steel industries	189.5	220.3	227.6	227.8	230.9	214.4	227.5	227.2	227.9	228.2	229.2	231.5	232.1	233.4
Orders VII to XII	Engineering and allied industries	165.7	177.2	187.6	195.3	201.8	173.5	189.6	193.2	195.7	197.0	200.3	202.0	203.0	206.7
Order VII (excluding MLH 342)	Mechanical engineering	168.2	182.2	193.0	202.1	209.3	177.8	194.7	199.3	202.4	204.5	207.4	209.6	210.9	214.5
Order IX	Electrical engineering	153.2	161.2	170.9	177.2	183.6	158.0	173.2	174.4	176.8	180.5	182.2	183.8	184.8	189.0
Order XIII	Textile industries	170.1	172.9	175.7	180.7	185.1	172.4	177.0	179.3	180.8	182.1	183.8	185.0	186.5	189.5
Order XV	Clothing and footwear industries	150.0	156.8	160.9	166.0	170.7	155.4	162.5	164.6	165.3	168.1	169.2	171.2	171.7	175.6
Order XVII	Timber industries	187.2	194.8	201.7	207.9	210.7	191.6	202.6	205.8	208.2	209.9	210.4	210.7	211.0	215.8
481 to 484	Paper industries	194.4	209.4	218.6	227.2	233.9	203.8	220.6	223.4	226.9	231.3	232.9	233.9	234.8	235.2
Order XX	New construction‡	200	210	220	227 p			220			227 p				

‡ Index of building costs relate to average for the quarter (*Department of Environment*).

purchased by manufacturing industry other than the food, drink and tobacco industries reflected small price changes for a wide range of imported materials. This index rose by 2¼ per cent in the three months November to January, compared with an increase of 6½ per cent in the previous three months.

The price of materials and fuel purchased by the textile industry continued to show the sharpest rise. The increase of 2¼ per cent in January, following a rise of 3¼ per cent in December, was due to further price rises for cotton and wool.

Higher prices for softwood, bricks and spun iron pipes and fittings contributed to increases of 1¾ per cent in the indices for construction and housebuilding materials in January. These indices have risen by slightly less than 3½ per cent in the three months to January, following small revisions to the December index caused by late notification of price rises for softwood and ready-mixed concrete.

There was no significant change in the index for the chemicals and allied industries in which lower prices for phosphate rock for fertilisers helped to offset the effect of small price rises for other products. Falls in the prices of imported paper and woodpulp restricted the rise in the index for the paper industries to less than ¼ per cent.

Price rises for a wide range of materials, including imported steel, contributed to increases of between 1 and 1½ per cent for the indices of the engineering industries.

TABLE 3(a) Commodities produced in the United Kingdom (as published monthly)

1970 = 100

1968 SIC		1974	1975			
		Dec.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec. p
101	Coal	233.2	301.4	307.0	307.0	306.7
102/1	Coated limestone roadstone	200.8	247.3	253.7	254.0	264.0
103	Sand and gravel – ex pit or works	152.8	190.4	195.5	197.3	197.3
240	Tobacco	118.2	154.4	154.4	154.9	155.8
262	Motor spirit, Two star (including duty)	159.1	172.4	172.4	172.4	182.5
	Medium fuel oil (950 secs – including duty) ⌀	270.1	294.0	294.0	294.0	343.7
	Derv fuel (including duty) ⌀	145.9	147.7	147.7	147.7	166.7
263	Lubricating oil and greases	194.4	206.4	204.6	206.2	205.0
271	General chemicals	172.9	209.0	211.5	213.6	216.2
272	Pharmaceutical preparations	140.3	172.0	172.6	174.2	175.2
273	Toilet preparations	145.9	172.2	173.2	173.9	174.7
274	Paint	185.6	208.3	211.4	211.2	212.4
276/1	Synthetic resins and plastics materials	173.6	182.5	187.5	188.5	188.9
279/3	Explosives, fireworks, etc.	175.6	227.1	231.5	234.0	236.2
311/2	Uncoated steel sheets (other than stainless and electrical sheets)	184.1	201.7	201.8	201.9	201.9
	Tinplate	198.6	215.3	215.8	217.6	217.6
	Finished steel (other than sheets, tinplates, forgings and castings)	192.2	234.4	235.1	238.4	239.1
	Steel sheet piling	193.3	241.1	241.2	241.4	241.4
	Heavy steel bars and sections	194.5	241.2	241.3	241.8	241.8
	Light re-rolled bars and sections	198.6	230.0	230.9	236.1	236.1
312	Steel tubes – other than electric conduit tubes	199.7	250.3	250.3	250.3	250.8
313/2 an 313/4	Iron castings	196.7	239.6	241.2	245.6	248.9
313/4	Cast and spun iron pipes and fittings	203.6	252.9	252.9	252.9	252.9
321	Aluminium: Rolled	157.4	173.2	173.2	173.2	173.2
	Extruded and drawn aluminium products – other than wire	156.4	172.0	172.0	175.9	180.2
	Aluminium: Castings	179.9	195.3	197.5	200.1	201.5
	Aluminium: Forgings	150.0	179.8	179.8	179.8	179.8
322	Brass ingots	132.8	120.9	120.0	119.8	119.2
331	Agricultural machinery	176.6	211.9	213.6	215.7	220.5
332	Metal-working machine tools	187.5	225.2	229.4 p	231.2 p	230.9
333	Pumps, valves, compressors, fluid power equipment	170.4	209.0	210.0	211.7 p	213.3
336	Construction and earth moving equipment	166.2	196.0	202.7	207.1 p	207.8
368	Domestic electrical appliances	141.1	164.0	167.7	168.2 p	168.5
390	Engineers' cutting tools: non-diamond	146.9	169.7	177.5	182.9	184.9
	Hacksaw blades	148.7	163.7	163.7	167.9	171.6
	Engineers' cutting tools: diamond	134.5	149.7	154.0	155.7	155.7
	Engineers' cutting tools	146.1	168.1	175.2	180.3	182.2
391	Hand tools and implements	178.8	215.1	215.1	217.9	218.3
392	Cutlery and tableware	162.8	195.9	196.2	196.7	197.7
411	Man-made fibres production	154.3	160.7	161.4	162.3	164.6
412, 414/5 and 415	All spun man-made fibres yarns	166.8	172.9	174.2	175.0	178.6
412	Cotton yarns, cotton-spun man-made fibres yarns and mixtures of both	182.7	187.8	189.6	190.3	198.4
413	Woven cotton cloth in the loomstate	195.2	188.7	189.4	190.5	192.6
	Man-made fibres fabrics in the loomstate	188.9	200.5	204.1	204.1	204.6
414/2	Yarns of wool spun on the worsted system	180.2	195.2	196.5	201.5	203.9
417	Hosiery and other knitted goods	147.3	155.8	155.5	156.1	156.2
419	Carpets and rugs	162.9	181.7	189.0	190.1	192.4
431/1	Leather for footwear	153.4	164.1	164.1	167.1	167.1
441/449	Made-up clothing	148.5	164.7	166.0	167.5	167.7
450	Footwear – including rubber footwear	157.8	176.6	177.8	180.3	181.9
461/1	Refractory goods including bricks	176.0	221.7	222.5	222.9	224.9
461/2	Non-refractory goods, including building bricks	179.4	222.7	223.2	223.2	222.3
	Engineering bricks – *delivered*	216.5	246.7	247.0	247.0	252.3
463/1	Flat glass (including safety and silvered glass)	154.8	208.0	208.0	214.6	216.0
463/2	Glass containers	175.0	210.1	218.6	218.6	218.6
464	Cement – *delivered in bulk*	172.4	210.1	213.1	228.7	228.7
471/1	Homegrown hardwood – sawn	227.2	223.1	225.4	226.9	227.4
471/2	Building joinery	206.4	233.3	233.3	233.3	233.3
472	Domestic furniture	166.8	192.7	193.7	194.7	194.9
473	Bedding, etc.	181.0	206.7	207.0	210.1	210.1
481	Paper and board	195.6	224.6	226.4	226.5	226.6
	Printings and writings (excluding newsprint)	189.9	217.0	217.0	217.0	217.0
482/1	Cardboard boxes, cartons and fibreboard packing cases	192.3	232.9	236.0	236.8	236.5
483	Manufactured stationery	193.0	227.5	227.0	232.7	234.4
484/1	Wallpaper	200.1	225.1	225.1	225.1	225.1
491/1	Rubber tyres and tubes	166.7	185.2	185.5	185.5	185.5
492	Linoleum and felt base	158.3	194.4	194.4	194.4	194.4

⌀ Index based on scheduled outer zone prices for minimum bulk loads of 500 gallons of exclusive of rebates.
p = provisional.

Notes

Many firms in some industrial sectors review their prices in the first month of each quarter, and the effect is most marked in the first quarter of the year. In these circumstances it is necessary to make comparisons of periods 12 months apart to bring out changes in the underlying rate of inflation.

Owing to exceptional circumstances following the 1 October increase in crude oil prices, there is still insufficient information available to enable the Department of Energy to provide a firm figure for the 'time of order' for crude oil in October. As a result several of the index numbers of materials purchased are still provisional from October.

TABLE 3(b) Commodities wholly or mainly imported into the United Kingdom

1970 = 100

	1975				1976
	Jan.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.
Hides and skins	126.6	169.9	200.6 r	213.3	226.4
Non-ferrous metals:					
Aluminium, virgin ingot delivered	148.0	154.8	154.8	162.0	164.1
Copper‡‡	86.9	96.9	97.4	96.5	99.4
Lead‡	179.7	132.1	129.6	129.9	130.6
Nickel refined delivered§	147.9	193.2	195.9	198.8	199.2
Tin, ingot min. 99.75%‡	212.6	210.2	199.6	199.5	200.3
Zinc‡	274.5	278.4	279.3	275.1	276.4
Zinc§	281.4	291.6	304.8	304.8	307.1
Natural rubber	130.0	174.2	175.6	189.1	197.7 p

	1975				1976
	Jan.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.
Sulphur, crude cif (for acid making)	262.0	256.3	256.3	256.3	297.1
Textiles:					
Cotton, raw	166.3	218.7	219.5	233.0	259.1
Wool, raw	186.3	215.7	223.7	233.6 p	240.8 p
Timber:					
Imported hardwood (ex-yard or warf)	230.1	235.0	239.8	241.9 p	244.4 p
Imported plywood (delivered to consumers)	228.0	217.7	218.1	218.9	219.7 p
Imported softwood (delivered to consumers)	247.5	232.7	231.0	235.4	240.0 p
Woodpulp, imported	267.7	295.6	297.1	299.8 p	300.0 p

‡ LME settlement price. § Producer's price p = provisional. r = revised.

TABLE 5 United Nations index numbers of world export prices(1)

1963 = 100

	Primary commodities											
	Total			Agricultural non-food			Non-ferrous metals			Primary commodities and non-ferrous metals (a)		
	$	£	Purchasers' currencies	$	£	Purchasers' currencies	$	£	Purchasers' currencies	$	£	Purchasers' currencies
1973 1st quarter	156	181	144	153	177	141	174	201	161	157	182	145
2nd quarter	175	194	155	171	189	151	206	228	182	177	196	156
3rd quarter	199	225	169	203	229	172	242	273	205	202	228	171
4th quarter	221	260	197	208	245	185	267	314	238	225	265	200
1974 1st quarter	289	354	267	226	278	209	299	367	277	290	356	269
2nd quarter	292	341	260	225	263	200	342	399	304	296	346	263
3rd quarter	295	351	268	218	260	198	258	308	235	292	348	265
4th quarter	303	364	273	206	248	185	225	270	202	297	357	267
1975 1st quarter	293	343	252	197	231	170	220	258	195	287	336	247
2nd quarter	288	347	248	199	240	172	216	260	186	282	340	243
3rd quarter	284	373	262	185	244	171	204	268	188	277	365	256
4th quarter (a)	293	401	271	184	252	170	199	272	184	286	391	264
November (a)	292	399	270	183	250	169	199	272	184	285	389	263
December (a)	296	409	276	185	257	173	198	274	184	288	399	268
1976 January (a)	303	418	282	191	264	178	202	279	188	295	407	275

The index numbers of wholesale prices relating to 1970 = 100 supersede those previously published on the base 1963 = 100. For the convenience of those who use the index numbers in long-term contracts to take account of changes in the costs of materials, the Department of Industry published indices relating to materials used in broad sectors of industry on the base 1963 = 100 until December 1975.

For users of these 1963 based index numbers who wish to continue the series in this way multiplication factors linking the series are provided in the accompanying table.

Price index numbers of materials purchased

MULTIPLICATION FACTORS

1968 SIC		
Orders III to XIX	Materials and fuel purchased by manufacturing industry:	1.31576
	†Materials	1.32339
	Coal (except for carbonising), gas and electricity	1.32732
Orders IV to XIX	Materials and fuel purchased by manufacturing industry, other than food, drink and tobacco manufacturing industries	1.35606
	†Materials	1.37364
211 to 229	Food manufacturing industries	1.24721
Order V	Chemicals and allied industries	1.23096
311 to 312	Steel industries	1.26420

1968 SIC		
Order VII (excluding MLH 342)	Mechanical engineering industries	1.36623
Order IX	Electrical engineering industries	1.53977
361	Electrical machinery industry	1.47664
Order XIII	Textile industries	1.13729
Order XV	Clothing and footwear industries	1.21860
Order XVII	Timber industries	1.34561
481 to 484	Paper industries	1.32202
Order XX	Construction materials	1.31840
Part of Order XX	House building materials	1.32716

† Includes crude oil and coal for carbonising.

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GOVERNMENT STATISTICAL SERVICE

Sales by wholesale textile houses in December

Sales by wholesale textile houses in December showed a decrease of 4 per cent on a year earlier, compared with a decrease of 6 per cent in October and a decrease of 3 per cent in November.

The value of stocks at the end of December showed an increase of 13 per cent compared with the same period last year.

TABLE 1 Total sales and stocks

Index numbers and *percentage increase compared with a year earlier* 1950 = 100

	Value of home sales		Value of stocks end period	
1966	110	*–3*	..	..
1967	104	*–5*	..	..
1968	108	*4*	..	..
1969	103	*–5*	..	..
1970	107	*4*	..	..
1971	115	*8*	..	..
1972	121	*5*	..	..
1973	134	*11*	..	..
1974	147	*9*	..	..
1975	147	*1*	..	..
1973 1st quarter	120	*18*	184	*12*
2nd quarter	123	*11*	171	*17*
3rd quarter	130	*6*	173	*12*
4th quarter	163	*10*	204	*21*
1974 1st quarter	134	*12*	189	*3*
2nd quarter	131	*7*	202	*18*
3rd quarter	148	*13*	194	*12*
4th quarter	173	*6*	198	*–3*
1975 1st quarter	143	*7*	219	*16*
2nd quarter	135	*3*	197	*–2*
3rd quarter	146	*–1*	193	*–1*
4th quarter	165	*–5*	224	*13*
1974 December	158	*5*	198	*–3*
1975 January	99	*18*	205	*15*
February	155	*15*	213	*16*
March	176	*–3*	219	*16*
April	149	*7*	195	*8*
May	128	*4*	213	*3*
June	130	*–2*	197	*–2*
July	125	*7*	210	*2*
August	126	*–11*	206	—
September	186	*1*	193	*–1*
October	193	*–6*	197	*3*
November	150	*–3*	231	*4*
December	153	*–4*	224	*13*

TABLE 2 Analysis by department

Percentage increase compared with a year earlier

	Sales		Stocks‡
	Dec. 1975	Jan. - Dec. 1975	Dec. 1975
Women's knitted outerwear, blouses and skirts	7	6	–10
Women's coats, costumes, furs and raincoats	5	24	54
Women's underwear	–25	–2	9
Women's hose and children's socks	10	–13	–9
Women's millinery	–28	6	2
Haberdashery, ribbons and wool	7	3	10
Children's wear	6	–6	–7
Men's and boys' shirts, pyjamas and outfitting	–21	–15	–3
Gloves	61	–8	7
Piece-goods and nets	43	3	29
Household textiles	1	2	42
Floor coverings, furniture and hardware	–4	5	21
Boots and shoes	–2	–1	–1
Total†	–4	1	13

† Including some items not included among the sub-headings.
‡ Values at cost.

Note

These statistics are prepared by Textile Distributors' Association. Inquiries should be addressed to the Secretary, the Textile Distributors' Association, 3 Berners Street, London W1P 4JP (tel. 01-580 2902).

Index to statistics and organisational information published regularly in 'Trade and Industry'

A = annually M = monthly Q = quarterly 6M = every six months.

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Air transport: trade by air (6M)	28 Nov. 1975
Balance of payments:	
current account (M)	This week
trends in invisible transactions (Q)	17 Oct. 1975
(*see also* Overseas trade of the UK)	
Bankruptcies *see* Insolvencies	
Business names and limited partnerships (A)	30 Jan. 1975
Capital expenditure: manufacturing, distributive and service industries (Q)	9 Jan. 1976
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Guide to Departments	21 Nov. 1975
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Programme of trade promotions	16 Jan. 1976
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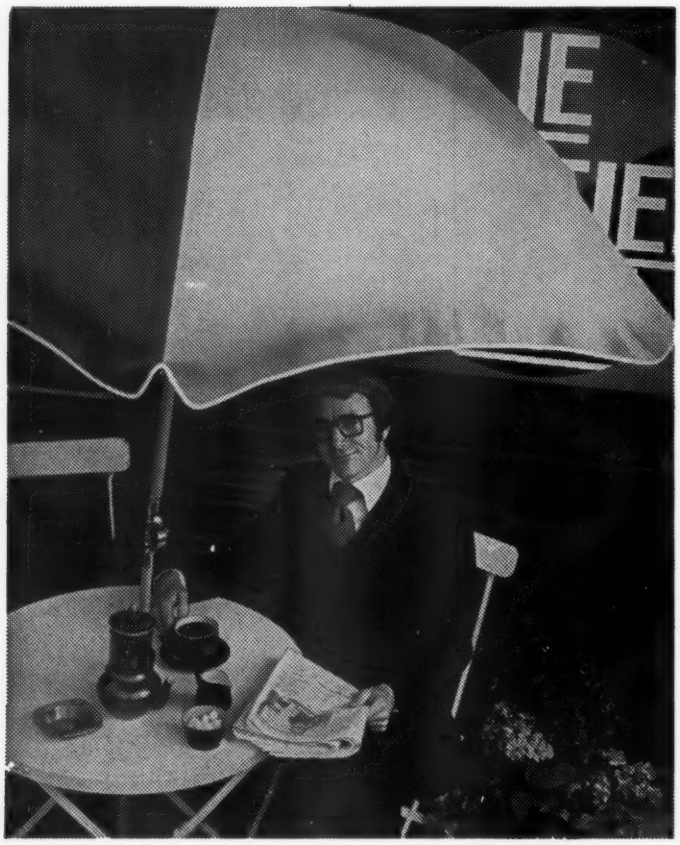

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